

Senior Safety

Senior citizens have a great advocate and mentor in Angela DeLeon who creates and produces seminars and programs focusing on their safety. Page 10

Drunk Driving

While many people might think an end to drunk driving is impossible, a state-wide group is determined to make it a reality. Page 3

Cold Case Update

State police may be developing new information in the 23 year-old case of a missing Sherman woman after a witness came forward last month. Page 13

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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

VOL. 1, ISSUE 8

Women Advancing In Police Work, But Few Pursue It

By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent

While women have made great strides in law enforcement, the number of them employed in Fairfield County police departments underscores the belief that police work is not an appealing career track for many of them.

"I have been in law enforcement for over 25 years, and it still surprises me that more young adults do not see law enforcement as a viable career, especially women," said Chief Betsy Hard of the Bloomfield Police Department.

"I am equally as surprised to find that the current trend for women in law enforcement is to avoid the promotional ladder. Many women are pigeonholed into a desk assignment or specialty field, and then decide to stay for convenience. Those who do try to promote then fail due to a lack of experience," Hard explained. "I encourage women to take risks by applying for and accepting new opportunities and assignments that may take them outside of their comfort zones. Developing leadership requires

taking risks, succeeding and failing, but ultimately learning and developing a broad experience base," Hard added.

A survey of larger police departments in Fairfield County by The Justice Journal indicated that Bridgeport has the highest percentage of female officers, at 13 percent, while Fairfield's four female

officers represent about four percent of its force.

The Connecticut State Police Department has a female population of slightly more than six percent with its 79 female officers on a force of 1,226. Troop G has four female troopers, including Master Sergeant Barbara Festa.



In a recent nationwide study, of 53,302 new police recruits, an estimated 17 percent were female.

"In Stamford, women officers make up a little less than 10 percent of our force," says Assistant Chief Susan Bretthauer, who has served 24 of her 28 years in law enforcement with the Stamford Police Department. As far as females, that city has 19 patrol officers, one lieutenant, four sergeants, and one assistant chief of police—the highest-ranking woman cop in the county.

"As much as we think we've changed, law enforcement is still considered a

- See **Women** on page 15

State Trooper Samantha McCord takes her turn at a recent firearms event sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Women Police. Formed in 1958, the association with about 200 members offers a support system to its members, and sponsors a variety of mentoring programs and events to bring members together.

Other Communities Looking at Danbury Sex Offender Ordinance

By **PAMELA FALCIGNO**
Correspondent

An increasing number of cities across the country are looking at a Danbury ordinance which prohibits registered sex offenders from entering city parks, playgrounds, and other public facilities.

The first ordinance of its kind in

Connecticut, it designates nearly 50 locations as "child safety zones." Recreation centers, swimming pools, and sports fields are included in the act.

Danbury Mayor Mark Boughton says the town did not have a "coherent policy" about who can enter these areas and, as a former teacher, he feels very strongly that protecting children has to be one of the

"top priorities of any city."

"We are sending a message that we value children in this community and we . . . want to provide a safe environment for them while they are on city property."

The ordinance is not without its critics, mainly civil rights advocates who claim it imposes an ongoing sentence and is unenforceable.

Danbury had no previous reports of problems with sex offenders in city parks and no warnings or arrests since the ordinance became law.

"I think we are really blessed with some top-notch detectives in our youth bureau that really keep track and tabs

- See **Sex Offender Ordinance** on page 13



Joint Effort

Traffic enforcement is expected to become much more effective in the communities of Fairfield, Trumbull, Easton and Monroe which have joined forces under a grant administered by the State of Connecticut. In their first outing the combined effort produced 68 arrests. The smaller towns see it as a solution to their limited resources. At left is Officer John Yaworowski from Monroe and at right is Sergeant Phil Hynes of Trumbull.

Story on Page 5.



SCAM of the Month

By GRANT STINCHFIELD
Correspondent



Word is Not Good for Some Poetry Contests

Every writer dreams of getting his or her work published. The thought of making money off of doing something you love is the draw. After all, fame and fortune can become part of a successful author's everyday life. Sadly, there is a scam spreading across the country that preys on the hopes and dreams of aspiring writers. It's been dubbed the poetry scam, but it can target writers of any genre.

Organizers of bogus writing competitions take out advertisements in newspapers and magazines across the country. Sometimes the contest announcement will even come in the mail. Recently millions of writers received spam e-mails touting a new "Poetry Competition." The pitch is usually the same. The contest offers financial rewards and promises of publication. But in the end the only winner is the organizer of the bogus competition.

Contestants usually submit their poetry for free, and every entrant unknowingly receives the same letter of good news. "Congratulations! You have made the semifinals. Your work has been chosen over thousands of others." The letter goes on, "We wish to publish your poem in a nationally recognized anthology."

"I just couldn't believe it; it was the

break I had been waiting for," declared June Defillipo of Redding. After raising four children and tending to her working husband's every need, she thought writing would be her new outlet and possibly source of income as she moved into the golden years of life. "I took a few poetry classes, attended seminars at my local bookstore. I just thought my work had progressed to the point I could get published," she said. The poetry competition she entered was supposed to be the event that confirmed what she always knew in her heart: "I have talent."

Defillipo realized she had been duped after talking with other writers at a writing seminar held in Greenwich last August. "I had sent \$49.95 for a copy of the anthology they said my work would be published in," Defillipo said. Sadly, she wasn't alone. "There were other writers who not only sent the \$49.95 but also paid \$75.00 to have their poem mounted on a plaque."

It turns out the bogus contests all have a similar catch. They ask the so-called "finalists" to buy the published anthology. They offer opportunities to have your "biography" included in the book, for a \$20 fee. One competition even told

contestants they have been nominated for "writer of the year." Along with that nomination came the opportunity to attend an awards ceremony for \$475.00 plus travel expenses.

The scammers can make thousands of dollars, because each contestant receives the same letter declaring them a semifinalist. The published anthologies can include the works of thousands of entrants and are never sold to anyone except the contestants.

If you're still skeptical, consider the work of one consumer advocate. He had an entire second-grade class submit their poetry. The young students all wrote about their pets. Weeks after submitting their poetry, they all received the very same letter telling them they were chosen to move onto the finals. Each student was also offered the same fee-based services June Defillipo paid for.

There are legitimate

writing contests out there. And aspiring writers should not get discouraged after being duped by a poetry contest. The key to protecting yourself is to do your homework before entering any competition. "I'm spreading the word to all my fellow writers," says June Defillipo. The first line of her latest work comes in the form of an e-mail: "Aspiring poets beware!"

PROTECT YOURSELF

There are warning signs to help you spot a bogus poetry competition:

1. An unusually large cash prize (\$50,000 to \$100,000) is offered.
2. The contest tries to sell you products that incorporate your work (anthologies, tapes, plaques).
3. The contest is free, but winners pay for the book.
4. It's hard to contact the contest sponsor.
5. The contest has low standards and is not choosy about who is published.
6. It's hard to find work of past winners.
7. The contest sponsor shows up on "Scam Alert" pages when searched online.
8. Only short poems are accepted. (The more they can cram into an anthology, the more money they make.)
9. The contest is advertised in mass-market magazines and newspapers unrelated to poetry.
10. You win a prize but have to pay to attend the awards ceremony.

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Group Committed to End Drunk Driving in Connecticut

By **CHANDRA NILES FOLSOM**
Correspondent

Most people might think that ending drunk driving is impossible, but members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) believe it can become a reality and are committed to that mission.

The largest victim advocacy group in the nation, MADD was the brainchild of Candy Lightner, a California mother who lost her 13-year-old daughter in a drunk-driving accident in 1980. The driver had three prior drunk-driving convictions and was out on bail following a hit-and-run. Currently, MADD's president is Glynn Birch—the first man named to head the 27-year-old organization. His 21-month-old son was killed by a drunk driver in 1988.

The first Connecticut branch was established in 1984 and after growing to five separate units, the state effort was centralized in a North Haven office with 11 employees. It is led by Executive Director Michelle Lettieri, a resident of East Haven and someone whose life was tragically changed by a drunk driver.

"On October 20, 1993, I was hit head-on by four drunk teenaged girls in New Haven," explains Lettieri. "My mom was a passenger in the front seat and was killed—she was not wearing a seatbelt. My sister in the backseat was wearing a seatbelt and was injured badly. The drunk driver received a five-year suspended sentence. I got involved with MADD right away—speaking at hospitals."

Lettieri, herself badly hurt in the crash, went on to become a victim's advocate and school program specialist.

"I got tired of hearing that there is a certain type of kid who laughs off drunk driving and decided to work with

students," she says. "A kid will relate to a kid offender before an adult, so I have student speakers—those who were involved in DUIs themselves—speak to students."

Lettieri has developed a number of special school programs sponsored by MADD.

"We have a kindergarten through sixth grade program called 'Game On,' a multimedia presentation that will begin next May," says Lettieri. "The middle school programs are called 'Take Two,' and for high school students there is a program called 'Hard Truth,' which was developed with Waterbury Hospital, and emergency room doctors and actual victims and offenders speak with a Power Point demonstration."

The law firm of Koskoff & Bieder, with offices in Bridgeport, Stamford, and Danbury, donated \$10,000 to the Fairfield County school programs.

"We are also working on key legislation nationwide and in the state of Connecticut," Lettieri adds. "This year we advocated for two new state laws—unfortunately neither passed, but we are hopeful they will go through next year."

Both bills—an open container law and ignition interlock systems—made it to the Floor last session, and Lettieri is



Michelle Lettieri, MADD Executive Director

hopeful they will be passed once the legislative session begins in February of next year. Connecticut MADD was already successful in its efforts to pass legislation to drop the legal blood-alcohol driving limit to 0.08.

"Our main legislative push (for 2008) has not been approved yet, but we are pushing for an 'Open Container Law,'" says Catherine le Vasseur, a volunteer member of the MADD board and co-chair of its public policy committee since age 13. She is now 23. "Connecticut is one of 10 states that do not have a federally compliant Open Container Law."

One of the conditions expressed by lawmakers is allowing restaurant patrons to take corked bottles of wine home. MADD suggested that the law be written to keep corked bottles out of the main cabin of the vehicle—either in the trunk or a locked glove compartment.

"Our second push is for Ignition Interlock Systems—basically a breathalyzer installed into vehicles for repeat offenders," says le Vasseur. "The blood-alcohol level must register at .02 or lower in those cases. It would be installed after a second offense or first conviction and paid for by the offender at a cost of about \$100-200, installed."

Le Vasseur adds that to reach the standard limit of 0.08, a typical 170-pound man would have to consume four drinks in an hour and a typical 130-pound woman would have to consume three drinks in an hour.

To date, just four states—New Mexico, Louisiana, Arizona, and Illinois—have mandatory alcohol-ignition interlocks for convicted drunken drivers. The interlock works like a breath analysis device and won't allow the vehicle to start unless the driver has a low blood-

- See **Drunk Driving** on page 16

MADD's Position on Enforcement

Sobriety Checkpoints - MADD supports the frequent and regular use of highly publicized sobriety checkpoints and/or other high visibility enforcement programs to detect and apprehend alcohol and other drug impaired drivers, and as a visible deterrent to drinking and driving.

Preliminary Breath Testers (PBTs) and Passive Alcohol Sensors (PASs) - MADD supports providing the most modern technology (Preliminary Breath Testers -- PBTs) to police officers investigating drunken drivers, both to increase the efficiency of the arrest process and to protect the innocent.

.08 Per Se BAC - MADD supports setting the illegal blood alcohol content (BAC) limit for non-commercial drivers age 21 and older at .08 per se.

Mandatory BAC Testing for Death and Serious Injury - MADD advocates the mandatory requirement of alcohol/drug testing of all drivers in all traffic crashes resulting in fatality or serious bodily injury.

Enforcement Technology-MADD supports the testing of and development, evaluation, and implementation of new technology to assist police in the enforcement of DWI/DUI laws. Examples of such new technology include passive alcohol sensors, videotaping of DWI/DUI offenders, and in-vehicle computer terminals for license/criminal records checks.

Drug Recognition Expert Program - MADD supports more widespread training and certification of drug recognition experts to better equip law enforcement agencies in the apprehension, identification and prosecution of alcohol and other drug-impaired drivers.

Open Containers in Vehicles - MADD endorses open container restrictions which prevent the consumption of

alcohol or the possession of open containers of alcohol in any motor vehicle.

Racial Profiling - MADD supports continued efforts to eliminate racial profiling and enforce drunk driving and underage drinking laws effectively and without prejudice.

MADD supports law enforcement's efforts to protect society from needless death and injury by strictly enforcing drunk driving and underage drinking laws. While the enforcement of traffic laws is essential in keeping our nation's highways safe, MADD also realizes any enforcement of our laws needs to be accomplished without prejudice, while protecting those individual rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, and treating everyone with dignity and respect.

MADD strongly supports accurate and appropriate data collection on traffic stops to identify and discourage improprieties and provide the information needed to enact appropriate policies and strategies, along with the necessary funding. MADD also supports implementation of video cameras to document activities and protect both the officer and the community.

MADD strongly encourages law enforcement agencies to continue implementing appropriate policies and procedures to ensure that racial profiling does not occur and to investigate and take immediate action on any violations.

PROGRAM HONORS POLICE EFFORTS

To encourage strict DUI enforcement in municipalities throughout the state, MADD holds a ceremony each year to honor police officers from various departments for their work to combat drunken driving. This year's ceremony, conducted in June at the State Police Training Academy in Meriden, honored officers from departments in more than 50 towns as well as state police and college police forces such as the one at Central Connecticut State University.

Fairfield County officers honored included:

Fairfield Police Department

Officer Mark Fracassini
Officer Robert Kalamaras
Officer Bryan Staffey
Officer Peter Stansfield
Officer Kevin Wells

Greenwich Police Department

Officer Michael D. Barrow
Officer Robert D. McKiernan
Officer Martin A. O'Reilly
Officer Joseph J. Rondini III
Officer Robert P. Smurlo Jr.

Wilton Police Department

Sergeant James Dempsey
Officer Gregg Phillipson

New Canaan Police Department

Officer Marc J. DeFelice
Officer Joe R. Pearson
Lieutenant Frederick Pickering
Officer Jeffrey L. Pollock

Troop G (Fairfield County)

Trooper Corey Eters
Trooper First Class Marc Gelven
Trooper First Class Darren Pavlik

Fairfield County Police officers who serve on MADD advisory boards include Lieutenant Elizabeth Erickson, Stamford Police Department; Officer Richard Frazier, Westport Police Department; and Sergeant Tom Mrozek, Fairfield Police Department.

Medical Examiner's Office Investigated 1,740 Deaths in Last Year

By **DAVID SCALES**
Correspondent

When someone dies an unexpected death in Connecticut, it is up to a handful of doctors working around the clock to determine what happened.

Edward T. McDonough, M.D., Connecticut's deputy chief medical examiner, is one of those few charged with determining how a person died. He and six physicians, four medical associate examiners, and a 60-person support staff must answer the question of whether it was from disease, natural causes, an accident, or even murder.

"We can do an autopsy on any type of remains, whether they are exhumed, skeletonized, or whatever," McDonough said. "We examine the remains for whatever state they're in, take samples for lab tests, and take evidence associated with the body. We assist police in getting a body identified through various methods like dental comparison, pre- and postmortem x-ray comparisons, or fingerprints. We then generate reports that are kept on file."

Autopsies are conducted on all homicide victims and gunshot victims, as well as for the vast majority of pedestrians, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, overdoses, industrial accidents, and sudden and otherwise unexplained deaths of people under the age of 45. The department will also investigate all emergency room



Edward T. McDonough, M.D.

and operating room deaths; unattended deaths, such as someone dying at home without a doctor, nurse, or hospice care worker present; or any body that will be cremated.

In the last fiscal year, the office handled 1,740 cases, plus 11,028 cremations. Of the active investigations, 1,367 required autopsies; 123 were determined to be homicides, 266 suicides, and 969 the result of accidents. No cause of death could be determined in 68 cases. While technology and new forensic techniques have improved the analysis process, some cases defy a clear determination of death. In 1990, slightly more than seven percent of deaths were classified as undetermined. Today the figure is about half that.

The physician staff at the CME's office are forensic pathologists with special training in forensics. They perform autopsy examinations to determine the cause and manner of death while consulting with the police handling the case. An autopsy, complete with blood work and various tests, is usually finished within 24 hours, according to McDonough.

"The examination is not only about what's there but also what's not there," McDonough said. "If there are no lethal injuries and the toxicology examination comes back positive for cocaine in the blood, we look at the circumstances surrounding the individual's death. It's a process of identifying positive information and negative information and then putting it all together."

McDonough must also gather trace evidence and collect samples from the body, such as fibers, hairs, bullets, or blood, which are then sent to the state Department of Scientific Services for a forensic examination.

"The examination depends on the nature of the case. It may be as simple as a patrol officer arriving at the scene or the major crimes squad detectives and possibly even the FBI," McDonough said. "They'll gather information about the deceased, and we'll have a presence at the death scene. This way the investigators can understand the relationship of the body to the scene and potentially gather other information."

After the postmortem exam is complete, the information generated by police and other investigators is processed along with any evidence gathered from the forensic pathologist. The findings are correlated to form a diagnosis as to how the person died and under what circumstances. This may happen quickly—in a matter of a few hours—or it may

take months or years to develop the information that correlates with the autopsy findings.

Often with a traumatic death the cause is relatively obvious, but toxicology tests are performed in every case, and results usually are reported in two to four weeks. The examiner then coordinates the findings with known facts so the family, lawyers, investigators, insurance companies, and other people can be

- See *Medical Examiner* on page 16

At-A-Glance

Office of Chief Medical Examiner

H. Wayne Carver, II, M.D.
chief medical examiner

Edward T. McDonough, M.D.
deputy chief medical examiner

Located: 30,000 sq. ft. mortuary, laboratory and administrative facility located on the campus of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Dentistry in Farmington

Operating Expenses
\$5.83 million (FY2006-2007)

Average Number Employees
52 full-time and 12 part-time

Mission Statement

To provide accurate certification of the cause of death and to identify, document and interpret relevant forensic scientific information for use in criminal and civil legal proceedings necessary in the investigation of violent, suspicious and sudden unexpected deaths, by properly trained physicians. Providing such information may prevent unnecessary litigation, protect those who may have been falsely accused, and lead to proper adjudication in criminal matters.

Medicolegal investigations also protect the public health: by diagnosing previously unsuspected contagious disease; by identifying hazardous environmental conditions in the workplace, in the home, and elsewhere; by identifying trends such as changes in numbers of homicides, traffic fatalities, and drug and alcohol related deaths; and by identifying new types and forms of drugs appearing in the state, or existing drugs/substances becoming new subjects of abuse.

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Four-Town Compact Boosts Traffic Enforcement Efforts

By **CINDY SIMONEAU**
Correspondent

It is midnight when the car rolls to a stop at the traffic checkpoint. The driver squints from the harsh glare of the flashlight as the Fairfield police officer leans in asking for license and registration.

Another shaft of light illuminates the front seat as the driver searches for the documents. Glancing up, he sees a Trumbull police officer looking inside the car. During the daylight the sight of two officers from two different communities would be strange enough; at night, in a long line of traffic, it's downright confusing.

But to the officers of these communities and two others—Easton and Monroe—it's an opportunity to team up against crime.

On the busy Kings Highway in Fairfield late last month, that was the scene greeting hundreds of motorists as the Southern Fairfield County Traffic Unit launched its second team effort under a new agreement that will see the four departments pooling their manpower, equipment, and other resources for various purposes, including this drunk-driving checkpoint.

Double Takes

More than one motorist did a double take as they complied with officers' directives at the checkpoint where motor vehicle violations including no license, no second marker plate, license suspensions, faulty equipment, as well as driving under the influence, were discovered. There were calls to parole officers and other checks made from the Fairfield Mobile Command Center on-site.

When one man failed a field sobriety test, he was hauled away to Fairfield headquarters from the scene in a Trumbull police cruiser accompanied by an officer from Trumbull and one from Fairfield. It was all part of a night's work under the Mutual Police Assistance Compact signed by the leaders of the four towns over the summer months.

While a cruiser from each community, lights flashing, was cautioning traffic to stop ahead, it was the Trumbull officer on this night that pursued the motorists on the Fairfield streets who pulled out of line to avoid the checkpoint.

The credit for pushing the idea of forming the group, and expanding service beyond the usual mutual aid used in emergency situations or ongoing investigations, came from the Trumbull Police Department, where Lt. Keith Golding oversees the effort. But it is Fairfield that has put the plan into motion first with what department officials hope will be once-a-month mandatory checkpoints.

The first checkpoint in August yielded some 68 arrests, including four for driving under the influence.

Money to pay for the first two events came from the grant each town receives from the state for drunk-driving initiatives, according to Fairfield Capt. Robert Comers. The number of officers assigned to the activity is determined by each community based on its staffing and overtime availability.

Both Golding and Comers point out that the effort would not have come about without the cooperative spirit and a willingness to set aside geographic boundaries on the part of each town's chief and first selectman. "The level of interest, cooperation, and general helpfulness in seeing this initiative approved was very supportive," said Comers.

The group is not the first such effort in the state. Others have been launched in the more rural areas along the eastern and northwestern corners of Connecticut.

Can Accomplish More

"We figured if we pool our resources and equipment, we can accomplish much more as a group than on our own," said Golding. "While, previously, in a big crime situation we may have felt we could ask for help, now, by working together on a regular basis, we can be much more aware of each department's operation and level of assistance."

"It definitely gives a smaller department like ours a way to concentrate on specific problems in a way we might not be able to address with our own resources," commented Captain James R. Candee of the Monroe department.

"We now have the opportunity to work on a specific problem in a way a normal patrol could never handle," he said. Easton traffic has grown considerably and a regionalized approach should benefit all of the communities involved, he explained.

It's also good for officers from different department to work together and share their ideas and experiences, added Candee, a 35 year veteran of the department.

Before the enforcement effort is started each time, there is a briefing for all participating officers, including diagrams of streets and setup of positions, as well as what each officer should say when approaching a vehicle and how tickets and arrests will be handled.

On the recent checkpoint, Fairfield Sgt. Josh Zabin conducted the briefing and reviewed the lessons learned in other exercises and new practices to be initiated.

Golding explains it is important to work out consistent actions so the Trumbull officer's actions in a Fairfield-based case will be recognized in superior court.



Inside the Mobile Command Center police check for outstanding warrants or motor vehicle and license information on motorists stopped at the Sept. 21 checkpoint. (Left to right) Officer Mark Fracassini, Sgt. Josh Zabin, the supervisor at the scene, and Officer Grant Dalling, all of the Fairfield Department.

Many Possibilities

The departments envision getting together in each other's communities possibly twice a month, where staffing allows, for other enforcement activity including speeding hotspots and school safety zones. And activities are planned for both day and night shifts.

"There are many possibilities we are

looking at when it comes to how we can help each other," said Comers.

"Our most common complaints, and I suspect the same is true for other towns, focus on traffic concerns," said Comers.

"Anytime you can pool resources and experience to help with enforcement, it is helpful to us and beneficial to the public," said Comers.



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Challenges May Be Similar But Values Differ

In my role as interim editor of The Justice Journal, I've been doing a lot of research, and the other day I came across a Web site that just floored me.

It was offering police officers advice on how they could be nice to the working press. If anybody talked like that back in the mid-1970's they would have been given a drug test on the spot, except they didn't have that testing back then. Thirty years ago, being nice meant not getting caught. Today it's flowers and candy. Here's an excerpt from this Web site, Policeone.com:

"When you're up to your elbows in a gut-wrenching crime scene or cleaning up after a horrific accident or being forced to deal with a nearly unbearable situation involving a child, you're not experiencing the emotions that go along with that alone. If you look behind you, you'll see reporters. They, too, are being called upon to stand the line and do their jobs instead of going off into a corner and breaking down.

"When you think about it, some of the job challenges reporters and cops face aren't all that different. Remember that the next time you have to decide whether you're going to brush off a reporter with a snide remark or give an understanding smile at a crucial time.

"Avoid being adversarial or uncooperative whenever possible. When feasible, give

From the Editor's Desk

reporters access to information that will help their story. If you know that you could step to the side to let a photographer get a good picture or to let a film crew get some good footage, consider moving. If you've got to deny a reporter's request for something, consider doing it gently instead of bristling."

There's a natural state of conflict created by the world in which reporters and cops exist. Reporters have a job to do, and that's to get the news and quick. Police at an accident or crime scene have their own job, and it's not necessarily to stop what they're doing and make the press happy. They may be gathering facts or waiting to notify next of kin, or they may want to limit some information to protect their investigation.

By training and nature, cops are suspicious, just like reporters. When I taught budding journalists at a University of Connecticut branch, I implored them to check and recheck their facts and sources. "If your mother says she loves



By **JOHN C. PETERSON**

Editor

you, look for the proof," I advised them, only a little bit lightly.

Cops operate the same way. "Just the facts, ma'am," was the familiar mantra from Jack Webb in his "Dragnet" television series long ago.

As a young editor eager to make the world a better place, I got involved with a statewide professional group. One of our projects was to join with a group of police chiefs to explore how our respective professions might improve our working relationship.

At our first meeting we went around the table introducing ourselves and making a short comment about how we felt about our issues.

There were probably a dozen of us, split between police and press. All of the police were high-ranking officers or chiefs. All related a few bad press experiences but expressed an open mind. All except for one, the chief from a large city in the Hartford region who will remain unnamed—the one who never pulled any punches.

"I put the press somewhere between gonorrhea and cancer," he said in a raised voice, looking each of us in the eye.

We knew we had our work cut out for us.

He wasn't the only one who told me exactly how he felt. A state police sergeant who took me on a tour of new barracks a few years later answered my small-talk questions about his career with a curt, "Look, I hate (expletive deleted) reporters, I'm only doing this because I was ordered to."

That shut me right up. The look on his face made me a believer.

Sometimes reporters get what they deserve because they do dumb things. Back in the late 1970's our free-press-good-cops group arranged for a group of reporters to accompany the state police on a major drug raid in the eastern part of the state. The press would see how the cops operate, and the cops would see how much better coverage could be if they were cooperative. We were all kept in the same room, and the deal was no phone calls or contact with our organizations until after everyone was in custody. The tightest security measures were to be maintained, because this was going to be a very big case.

The actual raid had been scheduled for around 9:00 p.m. We were paired up with surveillance teams waiting for previously confirmed traffic in the house to happen. We watched people go in and out, and as they left, the cops followed them and took them into custody. It seemed like there was a lot of activity,

but one of our guys said it was nowhere near as busy as other nights, and the last few people had no drugs on them. Something was up.

We waited a while longer, and they grabbed another patron. This one wanted to talk and make a deal. "They know you're out here, it's on TV," he offered. The force decided to enter the house earlier than planned. When they did, they found a relaxed group drinking beer and watching television. A search revealed only slight traces of drug use, not the quantities anticipated for a major operation.

During questioning, one of the arrested disclosed that they had heard about the pending raid on television as a promo for the 11:00 news. During a potty break one of the reporters had telephoned his television station, and in their drive to be "first with the news" they had broadcast a teaser that announced the raid and the location.

Most of the evidence had been flushed down the toilet or burned in the fireplace. The bad guys, who were considered major dealers, ended up dancing on minor charges. Needless to say, our efforts to improve police-press relations went way south.

Both the press and the police have come a long way since those days. Many departments now have press relations officers, and smart chiefs have come to appreciate the benefits of good communication and community relations. Reporters will always want to be first, but more of them seem to exercise discretion and perspective. Besides, in this business you generally get only one or two chances to be really stupid.

The Justice Journal has positioned itself in a way that's very different from traditional media. Our job is to find the public's agenda, and as we evolve, we're looking to create a higher level of dialogue between the law enforcement community and the various constituencies they serve.

We're not here to break the news, but we do expect to tell you things behind the headlines you hear and read elsewhere. We will offer a thoughtful and careful examination of all sides. It is our mission to illuminate and explain.

We think there's a need to go deeper into the issues that affect public safety at the community, state, and national levels. We want to tell all sides of the story, to illuminate citizen and community needs, to watch the legislative process, and to report on how law enforcement is getting the job done. We're not here to scold or shake our finger, but we're no one's lapdog, either.

We're here for the people who read The Justice Journal, and we hope you'll never be shy about telling us exactly what you think or what we need to do.

John Peterson, interim editor of The Justice Journal, is a veteran Connecticut journalist and newspaper executive.



THANK YOU



On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association held their Fall Meeting at John J. Sullivan's in Ansonia. Chief Michael Cruess and Lieutenant Jay Markella of the Cheshire Police Department spoke on "Responding to the Media Spotlight."



The CPCA would also like to thank Whelen Engineering for sponsoring the Fall Meeting and Public Safety EAP for sponsoring the coffee break.

www.cpcanet.org



Letter from the Publisher

Those of you who have followed The Justice Journal from the beginning know that our basic fundamental mission has been to encourage you—the average citizen—to “get involved,” to weigh in and participate on issues pertaining to safety in your community and to step up and actually work with your local police department.

But talk is the easy way out. As the publisher of this newspaper, I often wonder how many of us are truly willing to step out of our comfort zones and take a stand against crime. Do something like report suspicious activity, attend a community meeting, write a letter to a legislator, or volunteer. Contribute in some way.

Over the past ten days there has been a tremendous amount of news coverage about a possible break in the case of Sherman resident Mary Badaracco, who has been missing since August 1984. If you are a regular reader you know that our correspondent Bill Bittar reported on that and several other cold cases in the August edition.

Am I suggesting that a witness came forward after reading our coverage of the Badaracco case? No, I wish I could, but we are proud to be part of the process that brought new awareness to the case. The important point, however, is that after more than 23 years someone “got involved” and provided new information that finally led to some hope for Mary’s family that closure might be on the way.

There are many ways for all of us to “get involved,” but we need to stop talking and actually do it. It will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Doug Johnston
Publisher

THE JUSTICE JOURNAL

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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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Events & Notices

Uniform Fashion Show

Sponsored by the Milford and Orange TRIADS. Learn how to keep yourself safe, both physically and financially. Friday Oct. 12th, 10am-noon at the Connecticut Post Mall, 1201 Boston Post Road, Milford. Event is free, refreshments will be served, registration is recommended, call 203-338-4225.

MADD Recognition Dinner

To recognize volunteers who have gone over and above in their volunteer efforts. Tuesday October 16th at the Foxon Country House in East Haven. For additional details please contact Carole at 203-234-6521.

Amber Alert ID Sessions

Sponsored by the Wilton Rotary Club

and the Wilton Library Assoc. Sat. Oct. 20th, 11am-2pm at the Wilton Library President's Room. No registration required. The first card is produced at no charge and subsequent cards are made for a nominal fee. For additional information call 203-762-3950.

CT Parent Power Fall Action Event

Sat. October 20th, 9:30am-11:30pm at the Learning Corridor in Hartford. Results of a statewide parent survey will be released to legislators from across the state. There will be live entertainment by local kids. Visit www.ctparentpower.org or call 860-796-5559.

*More EVENTS & NOTICES
on page 13*

Submit Articles

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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The Justice Journal will consider story ideas or the submission of manuscripts from qualified writers. Contact the editor for requirements.

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Commentary

Inconsistent Justice



By **KENN VENIT**

That actually happened on Long Island on September 8, 2007, as reported by The New York Daily News, which referred to the fetus as an “unborn child.”

However, the same crime in Connecticut, and some other states, could have resulted in a murder charge and another criminal charge covered by state law when a person assaulting a pregnant woman causes the termination of a fetus. That is a Class A felony in Connecticut, with a sentence of 10 to 25 years and/or a fine of up to \$20,000.

“Jenny’s Law” went into effect on October 1, 2003. It was named after Jenny McMechan, 36 weeks pregnant, whose boyfriend, Michael Latour of Danielson, shot her in the head and neck in a Plainfield parking lot on New Year’s Eve, 2001. He was charged with her murder, but at the time there was no law covering the destruction of her fetus, which Jenny had decided would have the name “Nathan” upon his birth. Latour was convicted of one count of first-degree murder and criminal possession of a firearm. That was all, despite the fact the fetus underwent a separate autopsy and there was a separate death certificate for “Nathan.” Latour was sentenced to “life plus 10 years.” The State Supreme Court upheld his conviction in 2005.

Jenny’s mother, Debbie Florence, led an effort to make what Latour had done to what would have been her grandson Nathan, a crime of some kind in Connecticut. She succeeded, and was quoted as saying, “I did all of this in the name of love, not politics. It’s a big victory. There’s a law out there to protect women. It’s an awesome legacy for my daughter.” Her successful campaign illustrates how one person can make a difference when it comes to improving the justice system.

In 2004, the death penalty in New York was invalidated by the State Supreme Court. Legislative opposition to correcting the constitutional issues raised by that court means that, in effect, the death penalty currently does not exist in the Empire State. There is one person remaining on New York’s Death Row, and it is not clear if he will ever be executed, as he was convicted and sentenced before the law was invalidated. In 2005, the Connecticut State Legislature’s Joint Judiciary Committee approved a proposal to repeal the death penalty, but it did not go any farther. Several men are on Connecticut’s Death Row, going through the lengthy appeals process.

“Jenny’s Law” and the death penalty (or the elimination of it) are two concepts that I believe should have nationwide application, one way or another. If justice is to be “uniform,” shouldn’t all of us have the same laws to obey and the same price to pay for breaking them—regardless of state lines?

(Kenn is the immediate past president of the Connecticut Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. He teaches journalism courses at Quinnipiac University and Southern Connecticut State University. He is the founding editor of the Justice Journal)

“Practice Your Escape Plan” Theme of Fire Prevention Program

By **MEG BARONE**
Correspondent

October is national fire prevention month, and state and local officials want people to do something about it, especially college students.

Thousands of college students returned to their on-campus dormitories last month for the start of the fall semester armed with their textbooks, laptop computers, cell phones, and most likely a sense of invincibility that so many teenagers and young adults seem to possess.

Adam Piskura, director of training for the State Commission on Fire Prevention and Control, wants college students to develop a new or renewed awareness of their surroundings away from their families, especially those who have left home for the first time as freshmen.

But Piskura encourages all residents to review fire prevention recommendations and come up with plans to exit their homes as quickly and efficiently as possible in case of a fire.

Bob Kepchar, an assistant fire chief and a shift commander for the Westport Fire Department, said the whole month of October is designated National Fire Prevention Month, but the week of October 7-13 is specifically highlighted by the National Fire Protection Association. Each year, the association selects an overriding theme to focus on during the month. This year's theme is “Practice

Your Escape Plan,” he said. And that means everyone, not just college students, even though it is paramount for incoming freshmen who are in unfamiliar surroundings for the first time.

They've got to practice fire safety on their own, as they are all young adults now. They are no longer in their parents' home. Even fires that originate in small wastepaper baskets can spread rapidly, meaning people should exit a building at the first sign of trouble, Piskura said.

“We recognize fire education week in October, but what we try to preach in Ridgefield is that fire safety is an everyday occurrence in everyone's life. We tell people to have fire drills in their homes like kids do in their schools,” said Ridgefield Fire Marshal David Lathrup.

“A lot of people get a false sense of security because they have smoke detectors. They think they've got five or ten minutes to get out of the house, but they need to react immediately. You don't have time to dawdle,” Lathrup said. The toxicity of fumes from burning plastics, fabrics, and other household items is very dangerous. “It doesn't take much to make you unconscious,” he said.

Do not stop to call 911 in your burning home. Call from a cell phone or a neighbor's phone after you have escaped, he said. And do not go back into the home, fire officials warn.

Kepchar said families should develop their own escape plan, devising at least

two ways to get out of each room. They should practice that plan as a family quarterly, prearrange where they will meet once they get outside, and conduct a head count at that rendezvous point. “It's important to have a meeting place, because that's the first question we ask when we arrive on scene: ‘Is everyone out of the house?’ If the answer is no, we enter the home with our self-contained breathing apparatus and put up ladders,” Lathrup said.

All families should do a fire-prevention check of their home and have smoke detectors on every level, at a minimum in the hallways, but it's a good thing to have them inside the bedrooms too. They should have carbon monoxide detectors

on each level and a fire escape ladder in any bedrooms that are on the second floor or above, Kepchar said.

But detectors can't alert residents to dangers if they aren't operating properly. Fire departments nationwide have tied the testing of detectors and changing of their batteries to the changing of clocks for Daylight Savings Time in October and April.

There are other safety practices to follow that can minimize the risk of fire, Piskura said.

“The variable in almost all fire prevention is the human factor. The three main causes of fire are men, women, and chil-

- See **Fire Prevention** on page 17

Camp Program Provides Help For Severely Burned Children

Connecticut is home to a unique summer camp which offers children a special program to help them overcome life-altering burn injuries.

The Arthur C. Luf Children's Burn Camp, operated by the Milford-based Connecticut Burns Care Foundation, began in 1992 – the brainchild of Luf, who was a Bridgeport firefighter. The camp is designed to help campers, ages 8-18 and from all over the world, to overcome anxieties, develop and enhance their physical skills, and move beyond their scarring and burn injuries, according to Frank Szivos, executive director of the foundation. The foundation also provides financial aid to hospital burn care units, promotes burn prevention by conducting educational programs in schools, and contributes financial aid for burn care research.

“We try to help them heal emotionally and physically,” Szivos said of the young campers, which this year numbered 67, from the United States (six from Greater Bridgeport), Vietnam, Ukraine, and Jordan.

The camp is also a place of healing for staff, which numbers 70 volunteers, about 60 percent of whom are in the fire service profession in departments from Washington, D.C. to Maine. It operates for one week and is located at Camp Pomperaug in Union, CT.

“The problem we have as firefighters is, if a child is burned at a house fire and is brought to the burn center, we don't get to see the outcome. But when the child comes to this camp, we're able to see what happened to that child, and we can watch them grow,” said Camp Director Steve Lupinacci, a Stratford firefighter. Bob Kepchar, an assistant fire chief and a shift commander for the Westport Fire Department, is the assistant camp director.

Szivos said the camp is free for burn survivors. Children are recommended for participation by the burn centers that treat them, including the Bridgeport Hospital Burn Center and Shiners Hospital in Boston. The \$3,000 cost per child is covered through donations from individuals, corporations, and numerous fire departments, many of which host fund-raisers to benefit the foundation and the camp.

For more information about the foundation and the camp, or to make a donation, call 203-878-6744 or toll-free at 888-40-BURNS, or visit the Web site at www.ctburnsfoundation.org.



The Children's Burn Camp features a variety of programs and activities such as this complete ropes course that teaches children teamwork and helps build self-confidence.

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Security Professionals Networking to Raise Bar for Safety

By **PAMELA FALCIGNO**
Correspondent

While disasters such as the Oklahoma City bombing, 9/11, and Hurricane Katrina increase the public's awareness of the need for safety and security, a professional association with a strong Connecticut chapter has created a network of professionals to support those efforts in the public and private sectors.

If you have a security program, you should always be "raising the bar and trying to improve security whenever you can," observed Phil LeClair, security manager for Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). He warns, however, that as time passes, society gets relaxed, and some practitioners can lower the bar.

"You don't wait for the events to happen and be reactive. You have to provide the resources to your security folks to have a premium program," LeClair added.

Basic security for any organization includes protection of people and assets. Healthcare brings security to the next level, says LeClair, since patients are "vulnerable" and depend on others to keep them safe and secure while they are at the hospital.

Protecting these patients, employees, families, and a multitude of visitors in a 24/7 environment is his primary challenge.

LeClair, chairman of the Connecticut Chapter of ASIS International, founded in 1955 as the American Society for Industrial Security, says he is always looking for ways to deter crime. Membership in ASIS International (ASIS) provides him with a major benefit through opportunities to network and share information with other security professionals in both public and private sectors.

Through a combination of industry resources, including ASIS, CCMC has created its own unique program for security management. Drills for bomb threats, abductions, and fire are regularly practiced. Protocols are in place for responders. Visitors can be tracked throughout the hospital, in the event of an emergency, through a bar code pass provided at the entrance. LeClair is also part of a neighborhood/hospital watch committee.

ASIS has a worldwide membership of over 35,000 and provides domestic and

international conferences and seminars, as well as monthly local chapter meetings to provide education on the latest security methods.

Corporate Safety Director Frank Teti of Webster Bank is ASIS chairman of the Southern Connecticut Chapter. His responsibilities at Webster Bank include handling emergency evacuations in over 150 branches across four states.

People take security more seriously these days, and many employees are concerned about evacuation plans in the event of disaster, Teti noted. "They want to know that the company is going to do something to protect them, and if a situation happens, who is going to be there for them."

Steve Korf, Stamford branch manager of Securitas, a global security company, is an ASIS member and prior chairman of the Southern Connecticut Chapter. Networking at monthly ASIS meetings, says Korf, helps him in his role with Securitas, by giving him opportunities to share information with fellow security representatives and customers and to learn from one another.

The meetings also feature guest speakers, some of whom have unique experiences and insights. One such speaker that stands out in Korf's mind is the director of security for the NFL, Milt Aldridge, who recently spoke on providing security during the Super Bowl.

"It was a very interesting presentation to see something I would not be a part of unless I was in law enforcement in that particular city or state at that time. He (Aldridge) showed you behind the scenes of how law enforcement and private security worked together to secure the Super Bowl."

Ray Philbrick, CPP, director of statewide security for the Department of Public Works, is responsible for physical site security at numerous facilities around the state. "We work with management people who oversee respective buildings in designing lockdown procedures and bomb threat procedures," says Philbrick. "The way the world is changing and technology is changing, it's important to maintain a cutting edge on security issues and respond to them appropriately."

Security professionals are sometimes



Phil LeClair, security manager of Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC), monitors equipment in his department's control center. He serves as chairman of the Connecticut Chapter of ASIS, which he says provides him with invaluable opportunities to "network" and share information with other security professionals in both public and private sectors.

required to obtain ASIS certifications. The designations of Certified Protection Professional (CPP), Physical Security Professional (PSP), and Professional Certified Investigator (PCI) are recognized throughout the industry. Certification, says Philbrick, is "affirmation that you're maintaining a high level of knowledge and also a broad-based knowledge of security."

Various educational opportunities including online programs keep professionals on the "cutting edge," but the biggest benefit, says Philbrick, is the contacts available, locally and nationwide. "The fact that you're a member of ASIS opens the door. There's that level of trust which is almost automatic when you mention you're an ASIS member."



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Champion for Seniors Promotes Personal Safety Programs

Profile

By **LEISA TAYLOR**
Correspondent

Senior citizens are living longer and healthier lives, but advancing age also brings increased concerns about economic and physical safety. From sweepstakes scams to identity theft, senior citizens are vulnerable, perhaps due to the disparity of times in which generations have been raised.

"Senior citizens grew up in a totally different time," said Angela DeLeon, who promotes programs to protect the elderly. "Senior citizens grew up in a time when you cared about people and you weren't so afraid that someone was trying to hurt you. If someone bumped their car, they would automatically get out and make sure the other person was okay. Today, if somebody bumps your car, you don't want to stop on an isolated road because the other person could be looking to take your car or purse."

DeLeon, who has worked with the elderly for over 15 years, stresses that senior citizens are not necessarily gullible or uninformed. Rather, it's the ever-increasing generation gap between the elderly and younger generations that can cause misunderstandings. DeLeon used this analogy: Kids ages two and three today have a computer mouse in their hands. To senior citizens, a mouse is something that ran across the farmhouse floor.

DeLeon believes that financial crimes are one of the biggest threats to seniors. "Ten or 12 years ago, did you ever hear of identity theft?" asked DeLeon. "If somebody stole your pocketbook, they stole the money out of it and threw the pocketbook away in the bushes. When you

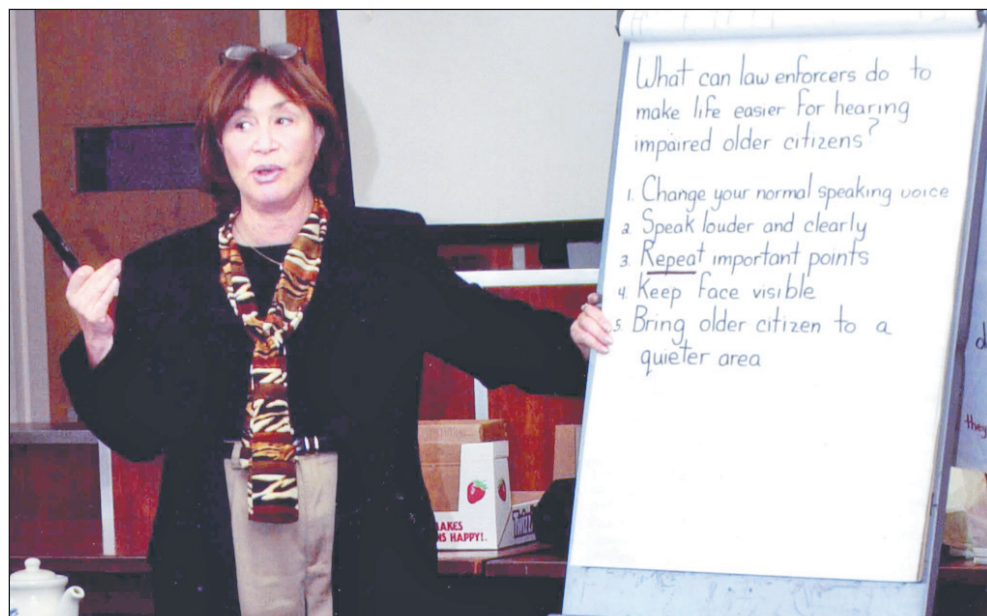
found the pocketbook in the bushes, there was no money in it, but there were still credit cards. All the medical information was in there. Now, they may leave the money and take all the stuff in order to steal your identity."

DeLeon warns, "Children of older folks have to be more aware, too. If you're caught in the sandwich generation – where you're raising your kids and taking care of your elderly parents – it's really difficult. You think, 'Mom and Dad are okay. We've given them our old computer and taught them how to use e-mail.' But guess what? Mom could be giving away every bit of money they ever saved, in a computer scam. Or she could be getting telephone scam calls."

DeLeon began her efforts to protect senior citizens in 1991 upon seeing an advertisement in the Bridgeport newspaper for someone to oversee a grant from Project CARE (Community Action to Reach the Elderly). DeLeon was hired by the City of Bridgeport and then continued the project's mission as a senior crime specialist with the Bridgeport Police Department.

"Project CARE was a grant in the early 1990's to address the needs of senior citizens in the inner city," said DeLeon. "At the time, Bridgeport was one of the crime capitals in the country. A lot of seniors were afraid to come out of their homes, so we put together programs to address that."

For about 5½ years with the Bridgeport police, DeLeon helped implement a variety of programs to increase the economic and physical safety of senior citizens. "The Safe Shopping Program was a big success," said DeLeon. "Many seniors were afraid to go shopping because of so many drive-by shootings. They were panicked and didn't want to go out of their houses to walk or to shop. So we established programs such as Safe Shopping that enabled them to shop safely and socialize."



Angela DeLeon makes a point about interacting with seniors in a training session for law enforcement officers. For the last 15 years she has been an advocate of personal and financial safety for senior citizens and heads up many programs on behalf of People's United Bank.

DeLeon said that one of her greatest accomplishments was organizing the Spices of Life programs with Bridgeport Officer Ruby Grier. "Our spices were the seniors and the kids," she said. "The seniors would mentor at-risk kids with activities such as cooking and knitting. This gave the seniors a real purpose, because the kids really needed them."

DeLeon smiles when she remembers the Spices of Life. "At first, the kids who had never been exposed to older people were uncomfortable," she said. "These seniors were in their 80's with gray hair and bumps on their fingers. And the seniors were in shock at the kids' language and their dress. But after a couple of meetings with each other, a great bond was created. It was amazing. They ate together every Tuesday night and had little holidays together. It was a wonderful program."

In 1996, DeLeon was hired by People's United Bank to create and coordinate

a community-based program for senior citizen safety. DeLeon coined the term "Masters Program" in lieu of using terms such as "senior citizens" or "the elderly." "Senior citizens are masters of life," she said. "Through the years, they've learned about life and are masters of it. They're the graduates."

Building upon her experience with the Bridgeport police, DeLeon is convinced that a senior citizen's best weapon is awareness. "Awareness is key," she said. "You can't arm senior citizens with guns or knives. You certainly don't tell them to use karate chops. You arm them with the weapon of awareness. They have to know there are cyber-crimes. They have to know they did not win a lottery or receive a big windfall of money."

To combat the spread of financial or other crimes against seniors, People's

- Continued on next page

1991-1996: Angela DeLeon was coordinator of the Bridgeport CARE/TRIAD coalition and a Senior Crime Specialist with the Bridgeport Police Department. Programs and activities conducted in the Bridgeport area included:

Bears for Bridgeport: Seniors would make clothing for teddy bears which were then placed in Bridgeport police cars. Police officers would give the bears to children in traumatic situations.

Bear Hugs: Senior women volunteered for a variety of community service projects and activities.

File of Life: An elderly person's medical and contact information was attached to their refrigerator door. In case of emergency, the information was available for medical personnel.

Postal Alert: Postal workers would alert a designated person if mail was seen accumulating at the residence of an elderly person.

Senior Alcohol Alert Week: The community-wide initiative raised awareness about the problem of substance abuse among the region's senior population, particularly the

problem of mixing alcohol with medications.

Senior Safe Shopping: Senior citizens were provided an escort service while shopping in high-crime areas.

Senior Safe Walks (aka Wild Walkers): Safe walking areas and routes were provided to senior citizens on a weekly basis.

Senior Volunteers: Seniors and police worked together to obtain information about personal security, the incidence of crime, and crime prevention.

Spices of Life: Senior volunteers met with young, urban girls ages 10-13 for a variety of educational experiences. For example, the elderly female mentors would teach skills like cooking, sewing, and knitting. Bridgeport Police Officer Ruby Crear was also instrumental in this program.

Training Classes: Senior-sensitivity training classes were provided to groups of employees such as store cashiers and department personnel.

Whistle Alert: Whistles were given to

elderly residents in senior housing as a means to alert police of suspicious activities. Anyone hearing a whistle knew to call 911.

1996-present: Angela DeLeon has been the coordinator of a program she created for People's United Bank called the Masters Program, which provides crime prevention and awareness programs for senior citizens. People's Bank has sponsored the following programs:

Bear Hugs: Senior women volunteer for a variety of community service projects and activities.

Fashion Shows: Senior citizens are provided information about the uniforms and routines of a number of companies such as United Illuminating, UPS, and the U.S. Postal Service.

Mentoring: A mentoring program is held weekly for inner-city children.

Purse Patrol: Shoppers who leave their pocketbooks or purses unattended in

shopping carts or baskets are notified that their belongings could be stolen while their attention is diverted.

Safe Teas: Crime prevention and safety programs are held for senior citizens throughout the community.

Senior Travel: A video for seniors about safe air travel was produced.

Training Classes and Manuals: Senior-sensitivity training classes are conducted for bank employees, police officers, and other emergency personnel.

TRIAD formation: Cities in Connecticut are encouraged to form a TRIAD in their own community with People's United Bank as the sponsor.

Yellow Dot Program: A yellow dot decal is attached to the rear driver's side windshield, notifying responding personnel in the event of an emergency that the senior's medical information is in the glove compartment. (See August edition of *The Justice Journal* for more information about the program.)

Your Best Protection is Awareness: This pamphlet on crime prevention tips and measures is distributed at classes and seminars.

Senior Safety Programs

Program Seeks to Prevent Financial Abuse of Senior Citizens

A growing number of Connecticut communities are participating in an innovative program that unites senior citizens, law enforcement, and the business community to prevent financial abuse.

The National Association of TRIADs, Inc. is a national organization created to develop, expand, and implement effective crime prevention and education programs for seniors. People's United Bank, law enforcement, and seniors work together to create TRIAD programs around the state, specifically targeted to preventing financial abuse of the elderly. To date, 43 such TRIADs have been established statewide. The effort is part of People's United Bank's Masters Program, a program recognized nationally for its leadership in initiating crime prevention and awareness programs for senior citizens.

Not an acronym, TRIAD stands for a community's program that promotes safety and awareness for seniors. The 6th Annual Connecticut TRIAD Conference will be Tuesday, October 23, at Central Connecticut State University. This year's conference theme is "Financial Exploitation and Abuse."

The City of Naugatuck formed its TRIAD in 2005, and the Naugatuck Senior Center is helping sponsor Senior Day on Thursday, October 11, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. "When someone says TRIAD, they know it means senior safety programs," said Center Director Harvey Leon Frydman. "It's become part of the seniors' vocabulary."

Naugatuck Deputy Mayor Tamath K. Rossi is the chairperson of the community's TRIAD. "We used our TRIAD to bring the seniors and the police department together," said Rossi. "There's a huge embarrassment factor when a senior has been scammed. The seniors need to know that if they contact the police, the information will be kept confidential, and they're not going to be judged for making a mistake. There's

now a comfort level between the police and seniors."

Rossi added that scam methods are increasingly sophisticated. "These scam artists operate in a way that is beyond our comprehension," she said. "They're getting craftier and craftier. I read about one scam where seniors were called up and told that a warrant was out for their arrest for not showing up for jury duty. The scammer said that the matter could be cleared up by the senior giving his name and Social Security number for verification purposes."

Since its inception, the Naugatuck TRIAD has scheduled a proactive list of programs to educate senior citizens and deter crime. Rossi noted that a recent Pocketbook Safety Program at the local Stop & Shop was extremely successful, as was a senior tour of the police department. "The seniors were given an explanation of how the Naugatuck Police Department works," she said. "It was great for them to understand the police officers' world."

Two more towns in Connecticut, Seymour and Fairfield, will soon have their own TRIAD. The City of Seymour's TRIAD kickoff ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Seymour Senior Center. Billed as the 48th TRIAD in the state, Seymour's featured speaker will be Stephen Hennessey of the state Attorney General's office.

Fairfield's TRIAD kickoff ceremony, at Fairfield University, takes place Wednesday, November 21, with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal as the featured speaker. "We plan to introduce various programs to aid in the prevention of crimes against seniors," said Fairfield Police Sgt. Jim Perez. "One of our first will be the Yellow Dot Program and then a vehicle safety day for seniors. I once had an elderly woman get lost because it was foggy outside and her de-fogger was not working. This is a chance for seniors to have their vehicles checked to make sure everything

Connecticut Communities with TRIADs

Ansonia	Enfield	Monroe	Orange	Trumbull
Ashford	Glastonbury	Naugatuck	Prospect	Waterbury
Beacon Falls	Greenwich	New Britain	Ridgefield	Waterford
Bridgeport	Hamden	New Canaan	Shelton	Willimantic
Brookfield	Ledyard	Newtown	Stonington	Wilton
Cheshire	Manchester	North	Stratford	Winchester
Colchester	Marlborough	Stonington	Thomaston	Wolcott
Darien	Meriden	Norwalk	Thompson	Woodbridge
Ellington	Milford	Norwich	Torrington	

is working."

Sgt. Perez said that seniors in Fairfield are vulnerable to both phone scams and unauthorized entry into their homes. "We had an instance where one woman was having her chimney cleaned and another person was upstairs taking her heirlooms and jewelry," he said, noting, "so many of the seniors today are still so trusting of other people."

Perez lamented that not only are crimes against seniors increasing, but the scams are becoming more elaborate and international in scope. "There was a group out of Canada that posed as FBI agents," he said. "They told [the senior citizens] that there was a problem with their bank accounts and that their account information needed to be verified. Some seniors ended up giving out their ID information, including Social Security numbers. At one seminar I attended, a chief from the Canadian Royal Mounted Police told us tons of stories about breaking up scam rings in Canada.

It's become an international problem. Scammers lie to the public and trick our seniors. Plus, they don't need to come to your door anymore. Everything can be done electronically."

Senior awareness is one of the keys to the solution, reiterated Perez. "We need to arm the seniors with awareness. Education is most important. The scammers need to know we're onto them and that we're not going to stop [looking for them]. And the seniors are going to help us find them."

Other upcoming senior safety events include a uniform fashion show at the Milford mall at 10 a.m. Friday, October 12, and a senior safety day at 10 a.m. Wednesday, November 7, at People's United Bank in Ridgefield.

Angela DeLeon is director of the State of Connecticut TRIAD Association. For specific information about TRIAD activities or forming a TRIAD, she may be contacted by phone at 203-338-4225 or by e-mail at angela.deleon@peoples.com.

Profile—

Continued from previous page

United Bank also hosts "Safe Teas" on subjects throughout the area. For example, DeLeon recently conducted a "Safe Tea" on telephone scams at an assisted-living facility in Milford. Another "Safe Tea" in Westport addressed global scams, and DeLeon related a recent incident: "A woman got a call saying her grandson had been arrested in Arizona for going on an Indian reservation. The caller had found out she had a grandson in Arizona and knew the grandson's name. The caller demanded \$1,000 to be wired to some address. It was a scam."

The flip side of DeLeon's work of educating the seniors and their families is educating the public about the unique needs and characteristics of the seniors themselves. Since 2000, DeLeon has been teaching senior-sensitivity classes to law enforcement officers, and she is a national trainer for the Justice Department's Office

of Victims of Crime. She is also the only person in Connecticut certified by the state to teach senior sensitivity to the state's law enforcement personnel.

The People's United Bank Masters Program helps law enforcement as well as seniors. For example, DeLeon has developed a manual for her training classes at police departments. "I teach police officers about hearing and sight impairments of senior citizens," said DeLeon. "I will have a police recruit put on surgical gloves to mimic what it feels like for a senior citizen who has arthritis. With surgical gloves on, the recruit realizes it's difficult to take a license out of a wallet. When a senior citizen is stopped by a police officer, they may be nervous and have arthritic hands. Then they're trying to get this license out of the wallet, which is probably stuck in there because of the sun and it's been there a year. It's very, very difficult to take out."

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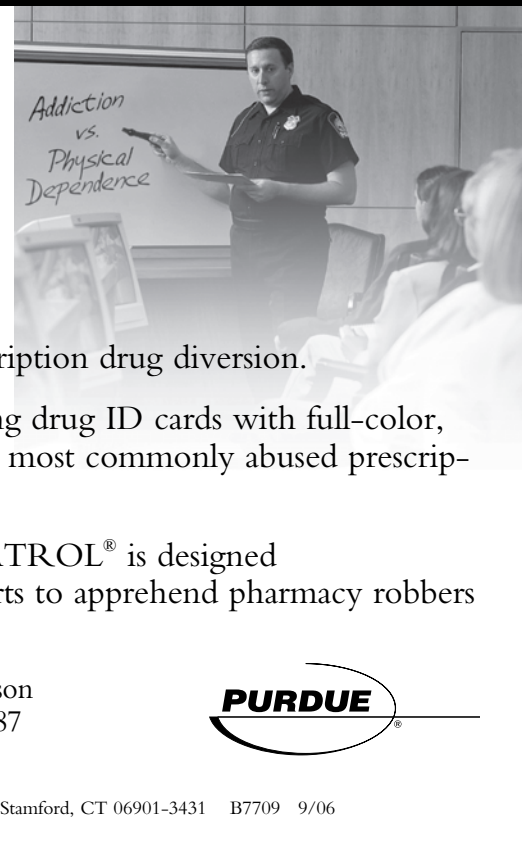
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www.ssmc.org

State Pilot Program Will Examine Female Probation Needs

By **TEALE CALIENDO**
Correspondent

There's one area in which women are catching up to men, and it's no cause for celebration.

The area is incarceration. Since 1995 the nation's female prison population increased by 50 percent. According to judicial officials, women's incarceration usually involves nonviolent crimes and is the result of more complex issues than those affecting male prisoners. In addition, female incarceration creates more of a ripple effect among those a woman leaves behind. At least one of every eight children whose mother goes to jail will get into trouble and wind up in prison. While it's been long recognized that the needs of women are different than men's, when females go to prison or are placed on probation they are treated the same way men are treated. That one-size-fits-all model is about to change.

In July 2007, the Judicial Branch of the state's Court Support Services Division (CSSD), with a \$400,000 technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections (NIC), launched a gender-based pilot program called the Woman Offender Case Management Model. Eight full-time probation officers are dedicated to the program. They are working with about 300 women who are 18 years old and older and have been sentenced to probation for a minimum of 12 months. The NIC provided training and technical assistance to get the program going and will follow up with additional training on gender-specific issues assessments, interventions, and supervision skills.

The eight probation officers are located in four of the state's most populous cities: Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, and New Britain. A corresponding gender-based pilot program is underway in Utah, but it is based within the prison setting itself.

A team of researchers who recognized women's special needs developed Connecticut's pilot program. According to the CSSD, women need targeted services and intervention based on their unique situations. Women who get into trouble are often victims of abuse (70 to 90 percent), and that impacts a woman's daily functioning. They may self-medicate to cope with the stress and trauma, leading eventually to mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety.

The pilot program will help probation officers better recognize women's needs so they can establish a relationship with the probationer, help her build on her strengths, and enhance her self-esteem so she can take control of her life.

"One of the first steps is sitting down with a probation officer and coming up with a life-plan," explained Bridgeport Probation Officer Chayenne Diggs. "I try to learn about their goals and merge them

Female Inmate Population as of July 1, 2007:

Accused: 445
Sentenced: 963
Total: 1,408

Source: State Department of Correction

into the court-ordered conditions so we can come up with a plan that connects what (the probationer) wants to do with what they need to do."

Diggs, who has a degree in psychology and has been on the job for four years, said, "It's a lot more effective (because the woman knows) that there is a network of people trying to assist her."

One of the biggest differences in the new approach is the amount of time the probation officer spends with the client. It's forced the state to cut the caseload for each officer in the pilot program to 35, probably about one-third of their previous caseloads.

That gives the officers ample time to get to know the women they are dealing with.

The simple answer as to why this could work is that there is a difference between how men and women respond to authority. Men, it's been found, generally respond to a more traditional, authority-based approach. Women are relationship-driven. They identify themselves through the relationships in their lives and make decisions based on those relationships. With the women offenders in particular, the fact that a relationship is established means in the client's mind that probation is actually a collaborative effort, something the officer is doing with her and not to her.

Although it's still too early in the program to gauge how it's working, William H. Carbone, the executive director of the judicial department's Court Support Services Division, says anecdotal evidence gives the impression Connecticut is on the right track.

"One officer, for example, related an experience with one of her probationers in which the woman's family was killed in a fire when she was young. This woman had developed a significant post-traumatic stress disorder. She had survivor's guilt, and that led to some substance abuse. The officer said to her, 'Despite everything you've been through, you have a lot of strength to survive.' The woman actually became emotional ...in a favorable way, because nobody had ever told her anything as positive as that. Just making that statement and acknowledging the woman's resilience was really significant," Carbone added.

The National Institute of Corrections is also funding the evaluation of the program, and if successful, it will serve as a national model for other states' probation systems.

Sex Offender Ordinance—

Continued from page 1



**Danbury Mayor
Mark Boughton**

on our local sex offenders," says Mayor Boughton.

Police Chief Al Baker says the ordinance is a "proactive community measure," and provides police an additional tool in addressing child safety in public areas. Thirty-

eight Danbury residents listed on Connecticut's Sex Offender Web site received a registered letter with a copy of the ordinance.

"I believe," says Chief Baker, "observing what has happened in other jurisdictions, the high rate of recidivism for sex offenders, and a general desire to protect the children of Danbury (are what) motivated the council to pass the ordinance."

Renee Redman, legal director, ACLU Connecticut Chapter, says, however, the ACLU does not think the ordinance is constitutional.

"The ordinance . . . not only infringes on the rights of people on the sex offender registry," says Attorney Redman, "but also makes it impossible to enforce."

Challenges have been made to similar ordinances implemented in other parts of

the country because of adopting 1,000-foot buffer zones around the park areas.

"Those kinds of ordinances are challenged, usually successfully," says Danbury Assistant Corporation Council Daniel Casagrande, "on the grounds they are so punitive they essentially substitute a new criminal punishment on the convict after he or she commits their crime."

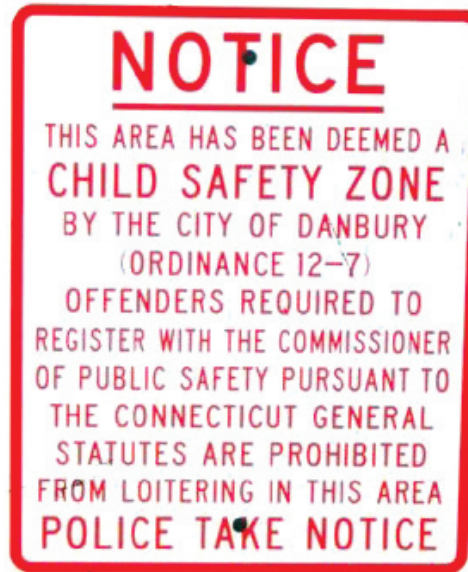
"We tried to stay narrow and accomplish the overall result, which is to protect the city's children from potential abuse but also not trample on constitutional rights."

Danbury council members continue to consider revisions to the ordinance, including notification to probation officers on first warning and listing child safety zones on the city's Web site. In addition, expanding the list of child safety zones to include property that is leased by the city with the permission of the owner is also being weighed.

"We have been nothing but cooperative with them (ACLU)," says Attorney Casagrande, "and I hope we can continue to approach this in the spirit of cooperation."

During the time the ordinance was put into effect, a mailing went out to all parents of children in the public school system listing the names of registered sex offenders in town.

Danbury High School Principal Catherine Richard says teachers Lisa Frese and Chris Fay of the Peer Leadership Program were the "drivers" behind the mailing, which was signed by



Sign denoting a child safety zone in Danbury

peer leaders and approved by the mayor. The sex offender list was obtained from the police department.

Richard says her vision is for each

community across Connecticut to make available a list of registered sex offenders, since access to computers is not always available to all.

"I understand where the ACLU is coming from, but we really just want to keep our kids safe," she says.

Richard says she has received positive response from parents thanking them and the high school kids for their efforts. In addition, she received phone calls from as far away as Kansas and Missouri wanting information about implementing the mailer.

"Parents love it; they think it's great," says Mayor Boughton. "They recognize they have a role to play in this as well in making sure that their children are safe. They like that the awareness issue has been raised. We understand that the majority of these contacts don't happen in parks," but in referencing the child safety zones he says they can "pretty much guarantee that there are not going to be any sex offenders in your midst."

IS THERE A SEX OFFENDER LIVING NEAR YOU?

Find out NOW - visit www.thejusticejournal.com



Tip leads to Excavation in Sherman 'Cold Case'

State Police have developed new evidence in the 23-year-old case of a missing Sherman resident, Mary Badaracco, that was profiled in the August edition of *The Justice Journal*.

Excavations at a Farrell Road home in Newtown produced several motor vehicles and other items which are being evaluated after a week of digging late last month.

"There was information provided to us by a witness that has brought us to this level," Lt. Paul Vance, a spokesman for the State Police, said. "This is an open case and, every time something arises, we act on it. This lead drew us to this property, which we had a search warrant for." The purpose of the search was to recover evidence, Vance noted. Neighbors said investigators removed at least three vehicles from the excavation site, which is about six feet deep and 50 feet in length, and were there for a week.

Badaracco disappeared from the Sherman home she shared with her husband, Dominic, her two daughters, and her four stepchildren in August 1984, at the age of 38.

Her husband told police she left their Sherman home with a sack of money stuffed with over \$100,000, leaving behind only her 1982 Chevrolet Cavalier – with a smashed windshield on the driver's side – and her wedding ring. Nine months after she was reported missing, her husband said they were planning a divorce and that she agreed to leave and give him the house in return for "approximately \$100,000."

A \$50,000 reward has been offered by the state for information leading to an arrest and conviction in the case. Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Western District Major Crime Squad at 800-376-1554.



Events & Notices

Continued from page 7

6th Annual Connecticut TRIAD Conference

This year's theme is "Financial Exploitation and Abuse." Tues, Oct. 23rd, 9am-1pm, Central CT State University Student Center, 1615 Stanley St., New Britain, For additional info call Angela, TRIAD Coordinator at People's Bank 203-338-4225.

Amber Alert ID Sessions

Sponsored by the Danbury Rotary Club-

Sat. Oct. 13th 9am-4pm at the United Methodist Church, Danbury

Sat. Oct. 13th 10am-6pm at Macys, Danbury Fair Mall

Sat. Oct. 20th TBA at the United Methodist Church, Newtown

Sat. Oct. 27th 10am-2pm at the People's United Bank, Southbury Plaza

Any questions please contact Bob Vetter @ 203-748-1105.

MADD 'DASH'

Five-mile run at Edgewood Park in New Haven. Sunday, November 11th at 10am. For additional info call 203-234-6521.

Public Flu Clinics

Offered by Danbury Hospital this month on October 11th, 17th, 20th, 23rd, 27th and 31st. For additional info call 203-739-7000.

Safe & Sound Classes

Safe Kids of Fairfield County Sponsor - Classes deal with the issues of car seat and home safety for children from birth to age 5.

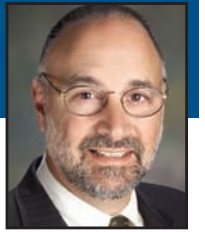
Oct 18, 7pm. To register call Tender Beginnings at Greenwich Hospital 203-863-3655.

October 24th, 6:30pm at United Church on South King St., Danbury, CT. To register please call Danbury Hospital at 203-739-6831.



Due Process

RICHARD T. MEEHAN JR.



Various Images of O.J., Then and Now...

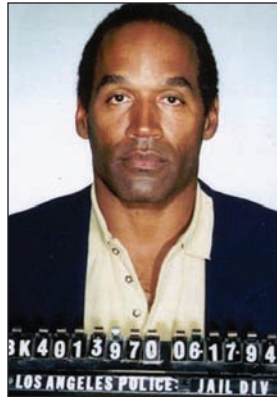
It was a sunny Saturday afternoon 40 years ago in South Bend, Indiana, that I first learned of O.J. Simpson. I was a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame, entertaining my girlfriend (now my wife of 38 years), Kathy, for a football weekend. The Irish were ranked number five in the polls and were hosting rival USC. Southern Cal entered the contest ranked number 1 and still smarting from a 51-0 thrashing at the hands of the Irish the year prior in Los Angeles.

We were sitting in the south end zone, at field level. The vista from those seats in Notre Dame Stadium included the image of "Touchdown Jesus"—a nickname given to the large mural of the resurrected Jesus entitled "the Word of Life" which is located on the Hesburgh Library, mirroring the raised arms of a referee signifying a touchdown. Against this background a previously unheralded tailback, Simpson, scored three touchdowns right in front of us. Simpson's heroics led USC to a 24-7 comeback victory that solidified its number one ranking and eventual national title. Displaying amazing foot speed,

Simpson ran for 160 yards against a very talented Notre Dame defense, stunning the sellout crowd in South Bend, and ruining my reunion with my girl. I was left with this indelible

image of him as he crossed into the corner of the end zone with his third score, deflating the Irish faithful.

Years later, in June 1994, Kathy and I were planning our 25th wedding anniversary. Suddenly the airwaves were filled with images of Simpson's now-famous slow-speed chase on the California freeway. Like everyone else, we became addicted to this new form of entertainment, the celebrity murder trial. For the last 20 years of our marriage, Kathy had sporadically attended criminal trials I had defended. She would come for a pivotal cross-examination or jury



summation, but never sat through an entire trial, day in and day out. With O.J., however, she couldn't miss a minute.

Court TV was in its early stages, but the O.J. trial

created a thirst for real courtroom drama. O.J. became the ultimate reality show. His was the first of the major celebrity criminal trials. The lawyers, even the losers, became legends and "rock stars." Judge Ito was parodied on late-night TV. Lawyers throughout the country were challenged to develop a catchy mantra for their jury summations to equal Johnnie Cochran's "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit." Careers, like that of the O.J. trial analyst, Greta Van Susteren, were launched.

Of course, the lasting image of O.J. from that trial was that incredulous look on his face as he displayed the shrunken leather glove barely covering his fingers. Marcia Clark and Chris Darden, the prosecution team, became an immediate teaching tool for trial practice instructors throughout the country for one of the most famous gaffes in a criminal trial. A decade of aspiring law students were reminded that you don't ask a question in the courtroom that you don't already know the answer to; and you certainly don't call for a demonstration without reasonably knowing what will result. Mark Fuhrman, vilified for his racial epithet and bungling of critical evidence, has now morphed into a blockbuster, crime-solving author!

The civil trial and a verdict for the Brown and Goldman families remain in stark contrast to the speedy acquittal in his murder trial. Armed with a less-stringent standard of proof, the lawyers in the civil trial were able to hold O.J. accountable for the gruesome murders. While the prosecution was faced with proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, the civil standard of proof required only what the law refers to as a preponderance of evidence—a mere tipping of the scales of justice in favor of the plaintiffs.

The inevitable books followed. Simpson was applauded in some quarters and vilified in others.

USC has dominated Notre Dame in recent years in its succession of national championships, producing more Heisman Trophy winners. Meanwhile, the Goldmans recovered more than \$400,000 from the sale of Simpson's Heisman

Trophy. Recently, they succeeded in convincing Simpson's bankruptcy judge to award them the rights to Simpson's fictional (?) account of how he would have committed the murders, if he had done it.

Having flaunted his questionable acquittal for all these years, O.J. has once again thrust himself into the public domain. In an unbelievable display of just not getting it, we now get O.J., the armed intruder. Television footage of an aging, now portly, 60-year-old Simpson, shackled at the waist, is the image we now have.

Prosecutors are piling on the charges, promising potentially 30 years of jail. The new defense team is proclaiming that it's all a misunderstanding and is cautiously predicting an acquittal. The Goldmans immediately petitioned a court to release the now-seized Simpson memorabilia to them when the latest criminal case is over.

Television producers are now scrambling to arrange coverage of every minute. The old Simpson team won't be there this time. Johnnie Cochran has passed away, and Robert Shapiro has been recently mired in a lawsuit over his million-dollar retainer for the newest celebrity murder defendant, Phil Spector.

What will our final image of O.J. be? Will it be a smiling but aged "Juice" triumphant again, like the 20-year-old All-American, arms raised high in the end zone? Or will that final image be O.J., finally convicted by a jury of his peers, doing the "perp walk" as he is led away to serve the rest of his life in a Nevada prison? For now he remains cloaked in the presumption of innocence, like every criminal defendant, waiting to see what mantra the newest version of the "Dream Team" can create for him.

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.

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What If...?

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



Can You Distinguish an 'Officer' from an Impostor?

Since we were old enough to understand, we were taught about who the police are and what they look like.

The uniform, medals, radio, gun, patches, and badge became synonymous with help and safety. Most three-year-olds can recognize a police officer in a crowd of people just by looking for the uniform. As we reach driving age, we all become very good at locating the police by looking for the police car. The red and blue lights, the specific makes and models, and the design on the outside make us all drive a little better and safer when we see them. It's these visual cues that help us quickly identify the police when we need them and comply with their orders to pull over.

Like many police practices in law enforcement, the origin of police uniforms can be traced back to the 1800's when the London Metropolitan Police, the first modern police force, began making officers more uniform in their appearance. The police uniforms are not only a tradition, they communicate to the public. They help to identify a person as a police officer, establish authority, and also signify a sense of belonging and pride to an agency's members. Some uniforms may also contain pins or medals of recognition for work done by a police officer. A black band over the badge communicates mourning and respect for a fellow officer killed in the line of duty.

The uniforms can also provide information to citizens who may have contact with a police officer. A motorist being stopped by an officer can see the agency the officer represents by looking at the patch or the car markings. By looking at the name tag and badge number, a citizen can identify an individual officer.

But not all officers wear uniforms. Depending on their job or purpose, an officer may wear a less traditional and

more functional uniform. Officers on an emergency response team may wear a more tactical uniform to carry gear and to better protect themselves. Detectives, depending on their task, may wear business attire for court, or "dress down" civilian clothes to blend into an environment. In these cases officers may not have outward identifiers to show they are police officers, and instead would present a badge and photo identification

to prove they are a police officer.

An incident in Milford just last month highlights how others may try to utilize a uniform to pose as a police officer. On that night a woman was stopped by a person in a Ford Crown Victoria "police car" with flashing lights and antennae. After stopping and complying with the "police officer's" request to exit the car, the woman was groped and touched inappropriately. The man, wearing what looked like a "police uniform," including flashlight, radio, and gun, then fled the area. This was not a police officer but a criminal, who took advantage of the authority granted true police officers to commit his crime.

Connecticut General Statute 14-223 requires operators of motor vehicles to promptly come to a full stop upon signal of any officer in uniform or prominently displaying the badge of their office.

Generally all local police departments have distinctly marked police vehicles that clearly identify them as representing a specific municipality. Some departments, including the State Police, utilize fewer markings, but still may have visible light bars and other insignias showing they are legitimate police officers. Many police departments utilize a variety of unmarked vehicles for speed enforcement and other traffic violations. Generally, officers operating these vehicles, however, are in full uniform. Other vehicles such as motorcycles, special operation vehicles, and even police bicycles should have some markings on them.

Incidents of police impostors are rare, but when they happen, they gather a lot of attention. Citizens may not like being stopped by the police, but they shouldn't fear it. Fake cops are real criminals. Be aware and observant, and report suspicious encounters to your police department immediately with as much detail as possible.

How to Handle the Situation

So what if you were stopped by someone you did not believe was a bona fide police officer? Would you know what to look for? Would you know what to do? What are your options?

Consider the following:

Is it day or night in a well-lit area? Are there people around? Usually criminals will stop you in non-populated areas so they avoid detection.

If you are concerned and truly believe it may be an impostor, do not speed up or try to flee. Drive the speed limit, place your emergency flashers on, and drive to a more populated area. If the police officer is real, you have at least notified the officer you are aware of his presence. If it is an impostor, you are drawing attention to yourself, which may make him or her disengage and leave. In that case, you should make note of the vehicle and license plate to report it.

If you are able, use your cell phone to call the police department in the town you are in. Take time before an incident to program these numbers into your phone, and include more than one department if you're frequently in that community. Certainly call 911 if it is a true emergency or you have no other numbers programmed. The police should be able to verify whether it is a legitimate police officer and can also send a marked car to your location.

If you do stop and become suspicious only after the "officer" has already exited the vehicle, you can always ask for proper identification before rolling your window down all the way. Check the uniform, patches, and badge to see if they are consistent with what you may have seen from your local police officers. If the "officer" is not in uniform, ask for identification and a marked unit to respond, or call the department to verify.

Women in Law Enforcement—

Continued from page 1

nontraditional job for women. They once thought women were better able to deal with sex assault cases or to handle kids but found some women are horrible at it and some men are great. It has more to do with compassion than gender. When I was interviewed for my first police job, I said that I just love helping people—and the lights and sirens get the adrenalin going—that's also what attracts me to this job," Bretthauer commented.

A former commander of the police academy who was appointed to the position last year, she says she climbed the ranks the same as any other officer—from patrol officer to sergeant and then lieutenant before becoming the first female assistant chief in the history of

the department.

"The fact that we are female makes some people not take us seriously—actually, we get more respect from the guys than from women, but I'm not sure why," says Officer Magdalia Ayala, a beat cop with the Bridgeport Police Department since 2002.

"People will make jokes about us every now and then, but I take it as a joke and say, 'Hey, I might be saving your behind one day—watch out!' says Ayala, who hopes to become a detective someday. Her gender has not affected the types of patrols she is assigned, and she never takes a step back when it comes to performing her duty.

"In five years, my most serious

situation was when I chased a suspect on foot—a carjacker who used a gun to steal the car," says Ayala, one of 54 female police officers in the Park City. "Luckily for me, he left the gun behind in the car, but when I was chasing him I thought he had it. He's in jail now. I know it's a dangerous job, but I always looked up to the career and respected the fact that police officers put themselves on the line to make a difference in people's lives."

"As a woman, you constantly have to prove yourself," Bretthauer of Stamford said, relating this account: "One time, after a business owner's alarm went off, he told the female officer who arrived on the scene that he wanted to see her supervisor, so the sergeant came—but she was also a female, so he demanded to see her supervisor. That's when I showed up. Generally, if I have to deal with

someone like that, I'll just try to defuse the situation—which generally works. But, like anything else—whether it's ethnicity or gender or whatever—there will always be people who are prejudiced. It's much less now, but although there has been steady progress in people's attitudes, there are still remnants of the past."

The National Center for Women & Policing and the International Association of Chiefs of Police report that nationwide, women comprise approximately only three percent of assistant chief of police positions. It is about one percent for the rank of police chief.

In Connecticut there are four female chiefs plus a female commissioner of the

- See **Women** on page 18



Drunk Driving—

Continued from page 3

alcohol level. MADD is also pushing for every state to mandate the devices for first-time offenders, raising the number of vehicles equipped with the interlocks to at least 500,000 from 100,000, at present. According to the organization, studies have reported that drivers convicted of drunken driving probably have driven intoxicated more than 80 times previously.

MADD has been pushing for an Open Container Law for the past six years. There is currently an Ignition Interlock Law, which is used at a judge's discretion.

"But we want the law to be mandatory," says le Vasseur. "In 2006, there was new legislation on house parties that made it

illegal for kids to have alcohol on private property and for adults to host parties that served alcohol."

The stats for drunk driving tell the story of why enforcement is so crucial. According to MADD, during 2002, in Connecticut 140 people were killed in crashes involving alcohol, representing 43 percent of the 322 people killed in all traffic fatalities. Nationwide that same year, an estimated 17,419 people were killed in alcohol-related crashes—an average of one every 30 minutes. In Connecticut in 2006, there were 109 fatalities where blood alcohol content was at 0.08 or above, and 301 DUI-related deaths in total.

The Facts About Drinking and Driving

About three in every 10 Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. (Source NHTSA, 2000)

The average person metabolizes alcohol at the rate of about one drink per hour with a standard drink defined as 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine, or 1.5 ounces of 80-proof distilled spirits, all of which contain the same amount of alcohol. (Source NIAAA, 1997)

Based on 1998 data, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for persons of every age from four through 33 years old. (Source NHTSA, 2000)

The highest intoxication rates in fatal crashes in 2000 were recorded for drivers 21-24 years old (27 percent) followed by ages 25-34 (24 percent) and 35-44 (22

percent). (Source NHTSA, 2000)

Alcohol consumption is a major cause of motor vehicle crashes and injury, and historically, about half of all motor vehicle fatalities occur in crashes in which a driver or non-occupant has consumed a measurable level of alcohol prior to the crash. (Source NHTSA, 2002)

Thirty percent of all fatal crashes during the week are alcohol-related, compared to 53 percent on weekends. (Source NHTSA, 2000)

The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than three times as high at night as during the day (61 percent vs. 18 percent). (Source NHTSA, 2000)

Older drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2000 had the lowest intoxication rate (4 percent) of all adult drivers, and the intoxication rate for male drivers involved in fatal crashes was 20 percent, compared with 11 percent for female drivers. (Source NHTSA, 2000)

Medical Examiner—

Continued from page 4

informed. In non-traumatic cases, it may take longer because of the tests and the need to research medical records.

Examiners also double as detectives when it comes to the manner of someone's death, such as in the case of a strangling.

"This type of death comes under asphyxia deaths, or lack of oxygen to the brain," McDonough said. It can be done "by blocking the air passage with a belt, tie, or scarf, but sometimes you can see evidence of ligatures around the neck or fingernail marks on the skin. Mostly we look for little tiny pinpoint hemorrhages in the eyes and eyelids—petechial hemorrhages—which tell us the neck was compressed. Internally there may be hemorrhages in the neck muscles, and there may be fractures of the voice box or the hyoid bone at the base of the tongue. This tells us pressure had been applied."

"Even after a complete scene investigation, a thorough autopsy, microscopic tissue examinations, and toxicological analysis, sometimes nothing shows up that would give us a reasonable cause of death," McDonough said. "We ultimately sign the death certificate as undetermined, which is like saying, 'I don't know.' It's frustrating for us and the family."

But at times a cause of death is elusive. McDonough recently worked on a relatively young woman found dead at home. The initial thought was that a possible medication or drug overdose contributed to the death. However, toxicology and microscopic examinations and other tests revealed nothing about how she died, so no cause could be reported.

In another case, McDonough faced the challenge of a baby found dead, but the child appeared completely healthy. McDonough considered declaring the case undetermined, until an examination of the baby's heart determined a tumor was the cause of death.

McDonough's job is not limited to the recently dead but also reexaminations of exhumed bodies to answer any questions about the identification of the individual or to obtain a DNA sample.

The department is also required to examine interred remains if they are disturbed, such as in the case of families who might want to move a body to a new grave. In that case, the cause of death must be verified with hospital records and a complete examination performed to determine if the body can be moved without a health risk.

While McDonough's many years of experience have helped him to build defense mechanisms and maintain his professional calm, he says there are always incidents that have an impact. "There was a state trooper who was hit by a car, and he had a tape recorder running in his pocket, so we could hear what happened," McDonough

said. "It was no longer a clinical situation—it was very real...Another was a woman years ago who was abducted, raped, and strangled just because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time...and of course the Cheshire murders."

McDonough said the pure innocence of the victims and the brutality of these crimes affected everyone in the building.

McDonough trained in general pathology at Danbury Hospital. He did his residency training and became an assistant medical examiner for the towns of lower Fairfield County. He has been at the Chief Medical Examiner's office in Farmington for 21 years.

"It was fun hanging out with the cops," McDonough said. "It was more fun hanging out with the cops and going into burning buildings than it is looking through a microscope all day long."

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Summary of Cases by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year 7/1-6/30	Autopsies	Examinations	Other Cases	TOTAL	Cremations	% incl crem	Homicides	Suicide	Accidents	Undetermined
1990	1,384	109	39	1,532	4,367	35.76%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1991	1,269	120	17	1,406	4,999	42.01%	195	314	724	100
1992	1,270	127	40	1,437	5,574	45.20%	194	378	725	78
1993	1,291	123	40	1,454	6,352	48.73%	200	316	772	82
1994	1,307	189	40	1,536	6,622	50.27%	219	332	848	58
1995	1,277	193	37	1,507	6,910	51.71%	194	316	804	44
1996	1,113	186	23	1,322	7,078	52.90%	150	323	786	57
1997	1,176	192	27	1,395	7,740	55.36%	169	308	795	56
1998	1,229	215	27	1,471	7,674	55.10%	139	265	833	57
1999	1,220	213	51	1,484	8,357	57.00%	151	285	890	79
2000	1,186	290	46	1,522	8,752	59.58%	104	304	875	70
2001	1,271	326	94	1,691	9,709	61.76%	112	319	935	82
2002	1,219	318	87	1,624	9,431	62.70%	110	275	889	80
2003	1,190	311	71	1,572	10,014	63.93%	115	278	950	63
2004	1,226	318	40	1,584	10,291	64.62%	102	241	831	27
2005	1,272	262	21	1,555	10,675	65.43%	129	316	643	57
2006	1,263	268	24	1,555	10,784	67.20%	125	280	722	47
2007	1,367	332	41	1,740	11,028	68.05%	123	266	969	68

Amber Alert Child I.D. Program Draws Crowds at Big E



Connecticut Day at The BigE in Springfield, Massachusetts last month showcased a variety of state initiatives, among the ambitious Amber Alert program sponsored by Rotary Clubs in Connecticut.

Forty Rotary clubs in the state are participating and the Big E effort added almost 4,000 children to the state wide base of 40,000. Among those who lent their support were Governor M. Jodi Rell and Lieutenant Governor Michael Fedele, shown in the top left photo. Parents like those in the photo to the right were encouraged to update their children's information every six months while they are under the age of four and annually after they reach that age. Bottom right, triplets Devin, Aidan, Kenna Sanderson with older brother Gary, display their new Amrber Alert cards. Coordinating the effort were Rotarians Herb Hicks, a fire captain with City of Groton Fire Department and Officer Jack Egan (left) with the Clinton Police Department in the bottom left photo.



Fire Prevention—

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dren. In most cases it's a man, woman, or child that's brought something into the built environment that's going to cause the ignition, or the inappropriate use of that item, or not following the directions," he said.

Smoking in bed, playing with matches, leaving candles unattended, or walking away from a stove top while it's in use are all contributing factors in accidental fires.

Piskura said college students should abide by the rules that colleges and universities adopt, most of which ban smoking and the use of hot plates and coffee-makers in dormitories.

"They are bringing their own personal belongings and devices into a built environment that, hopefully, has a fully operating sprinkler system but may not. Simple things such as bringing a reading lamp into their dorm room could contribute to a fire initiation because of the high-intensity halogen bulb. And in a kid's dorm they might throw a sweater on top of it, and now you've got a fire in

a dormitory room," said Piskura, a former Danbury firefighter.

"Most of these places restrict smoking, but then what happens is the occupants find clandestine methods to smoke, and when you're doing something in a sneaky fashion then when you hear a noise or think you hear a knock at the door you will probably discard what you're doing inappropriately, and you may or may not retrieve it in time enough that it doesn't ignite something," Piskura said.

"Every year five or six children lose their lives in college dormitory fires nationally," he said. And that doesn't include off-campus housing, he added.

If you have to smoke at all, don't smoke in bed, don't empty ashtrays into garbage cans, and have fire extinguishers available. Never try to put out a grease fire with water, said Kepchar.

For information on fire safety procedures and municipal smoke detector testing programs, visit the Web site of your local fire department or the National Fire Protection Association at www.nfpa.org.

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Women in Law Enforcement—

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Department of Correction, Theresa C. Lantz. The longest-serving chiefs are Chief Hard of Bloomfield and Chief Lisa Bolduc of Willimantic, both of whom were appointed in early 2003. Chief Karen Krasicky of Plymouth was sworn in April 2005, and Chief Lynn Baldoni of Middletown was sworn in October 2006.

Women who have achieved rank in the state police include one lieutenant colonel, one captain, four lieutenants, two master sergeants, and five sergeants.

Support for the Sisters in Arms

Back in 1958, a small group of female officers in Hartford began the Connecticut Association of Women Police (CAWP) as a support system. As the number of female police officers increased, so did membership. Today there are about 200 members from across the state.

"No one likes to talk about the officers and supervisors face challenges; stereotypes and perceptions that exist, every new assignment and promotion



Assistant Chief
Susan Bretthauer



Detective
Karla C. Rodriguez

because it's against the law to be biased, but they do exist," says Detective Karla C. Rodriguez, the current president of CAWP, who has served with the Intelligence Division of the Hartford Police Department for the past 13 years. "A female police officer or a very petite male officer must do what they can to excel and prove wrong those who think they don't deserve to wear the uniform. But, so what if there are higher expectations for women police officers? Those expectations have only made me a better cop."

Yet, she adds the very thing that makes women cops stronger also serves as a stress factor.

"Overall, I don't believe that the true challenges I have faced throughout my career were gender based," said Chief Hard, a Massachusetts native who worked her way up through the ranks in Santa Monica, CA. "All new



Four female officers practice their shooting skills at the firing range.

presented challenges. Everyone is tested and put under a microscope; it's part of the business. Did I face some obstacles because I was a woman? Sure. But obstacles merely present you with an opportunity to make a decision: do you go around them, over them, or through them, or do you remove them? Is it really an obstacle that impacts you, or are you merely allowing it to impact you?" she added.

Along with offering a support system to its members, CAWP sponsors stress-relieving events such as walking and running, annual shoots, bus trips, and get-togethers. It also supports mentoring programs and fundraisers and offers scholarships to qualified students pursuing a career in law enforcement.

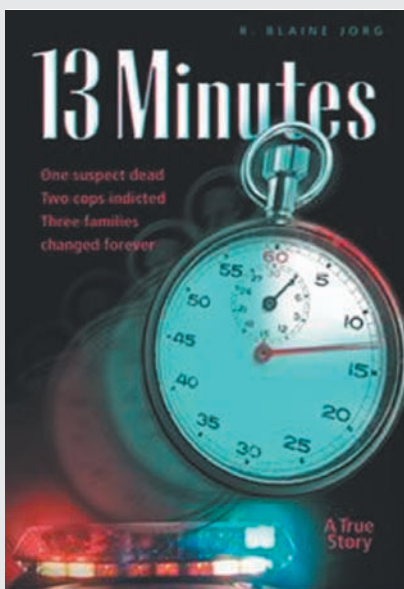
"We also have affiliate members with other organizations like the International Association of Women Police and participate in events with other organizations such as the Connecticut Chapter of Men and Women for Justice," says Detective Rodriguez.

The group encourages women to enter the field of law enforcement and holds to a strict ethic of standards and professionalism to assure that those who join have the tools necessary to find success and support serving in this tough but satisfying line of work.

"In my eyes, you can change one mind at a time by proving yourself, but you can't change the ingrained mindset of the police culture overnight," says Detective Rodriguez. "But this job is one that is extremely gratifying. It's about doing the best that you can, recognizing what you could have done better, and learning from yourself and others everyday."

For Chief Hard, who also had to learn to juggle marriage and kids along with being one of the top cops in the state, it comes down to one thing: "Bottom line is that if you work hard, if you possess the required skills and courage it takes to be a police officer, and if you work with integrity, you will be respected by those who matter to you."

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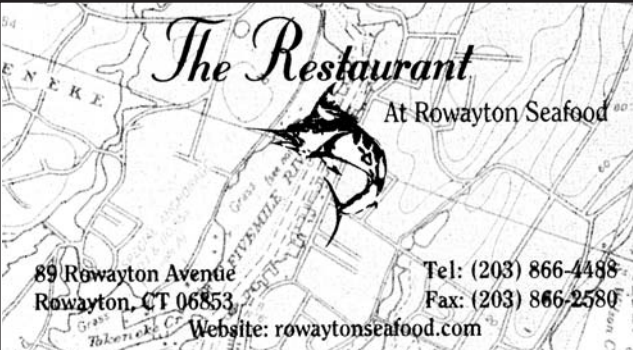
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