

RIDOC Happenings

Volume V, Issue 14

Upcoming & Recent Events & News of Interest to the RIDOC Community

August 4, 2011

"The pursuit of perfection often impedes improvement."

George Will

Listings or photos for the e-calendar *RIDOC Happenings*, the quarterly newsletter *RIDOC Review*, or changes or updates to the Department's Intranet site or external website (www.doc.ri.gov) should be submitted to Tracey E. Zeckhausen, Chief of Information & Public Relations
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Adult Counselor Ed Allison

Condolences go to the friends and family of Adult Counselor Ed Allison, who died on Wednesday, August 5, after a two-year illness. Ed had been with the Department for 21 years, most recently in the Price Facility. Details on funeral arrangements will be shared when they become available.

Officer Ellis and Lt. Avila Oversee Growth of Miss Demeanor the Pumpkin

C.O. Grace Ellis and C.O. Lieutenant Joe Avila have been spearheading a project at the old Gloria McDonald building which they hope will lead to the opportunity for the RIDOC's female inmates to have a full vegetable garden large enough to feed the female inmates. In May, the two helped the women plant some pumpkin seeds in front of the fence outside of the old GM Building. About 10 whitish-green pumpkins grew, and all but one were removed so that the nutrients could all travel to one pumpkin. The inmates have affectionately named her *Miss Demeanor* and according to Officers Ellis and Avila, she has been well accepted by inmates and staff alike and has brought a sense of calm and purpose to the facility. Elena, an inmate who is almost solely responsible for her care now, waters her daily with a milk and water combination and gently moves her every day to keep her growing evenly. Officer Ellis has brought in manure from her own garden to help with MD's growth. MD is currently weighing in at 176 pounds, and Officer Ellis hopes to enter her in the Eastern States Exposition's pumpkin contest. She is growing approximately four inches per day, so it's anticipated that she'll get a lot bigger.

Probation & Parole Participates in SOLEMN Sweep

The Sex Offender Law Enforcement Multi-disciplinary Network (SOLEMN) recently conducted unannounced checks on 200 registered sex offenders in Rhode Island over a five-day period in Cranston, East Providence and Warwick. The checks resulted in the arrest of eight individuals. Participating in the sweep were several police departments, Child Protection Investigators from DCYF, Detectives from the RI State Police Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, and Sex-Offender Specific Probation and Parole Officers.

Upcoming New Employee Orientation

The next New Employee Orientation will take place **Tuesday - Wednesday, August 9 - 10, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.** at the **Training Academy, 2nd Floor of the Pinel Building**. Mentors, volunteers and interns need only attend on **Wednesday, August 9, from 8:30 a.m. - noon**. Supervisors must register attendees by calling **ext. 22697**.

Getting Along in the Multigenerational Workplace - Additional Class Added

By popular demand, the Multigenerational Workforce training program offered on July 21 will be repeated on **Thursday, August 25, from 9 a.m. to noon** in the **Admin-A 2nd Floor Conference Room**. Led by HR's Paul Gutowski, Medium Moran's Cindy Drake, and the Training Academy's Marc Moreau, the training is for anyone interested in learning more about their own generation as well as the generational characteristics of the staff they supervise and or work with in order to reduce cross generational conflict and build collaboration within the organization. Please RSVP to Paul.Gutowski@doc.ri.gov. Space is limited.

Vacation Coverage

Employees who will be away from the office for more than a day are asked to change their voice mail message accordingly and use the "Out of Office Assistant" within Outlook so colleagues and the public are aware of your absence and know they won't hear back from you until you return. Whenever possible, arrangements should be made for alternate coverage and both your voice mail message and automated email response should indicate who will provide that coverage and how to reach them.

Lisa Blanchette to Serve as Volunteer and Internship Coordinator

Probation & Parole's Lisa Blanchette is the Department's new Volunteer/Internship Coordinator. In that capacity, Lisa asks anyone who is seeking an intern for the fall semester to fill out and return the form she sent to all e-mail users on July 26. Lisa's office is in the Dix Building, and she can be reached by e-mail at lisa.blanchette@doc.ri.gov.

All in the Family

If you have a relative who also works at the DOC and both of you are willing to share your story for the next *RIDOC Review*, I'm interested in hearing from you. I know we have some sibling, father-son and father-daughter teams. I'd like to briefly interview you and take a picture of you with your relative. Please contact me via e-mail or phone (**ext. 22609**). Thanks!

Facility Visiting Hours on the Web

Please note that visiting hours for all of our facilities (except for High Security) are now posted on the website. They can be found on the Intranet under **Facility Visiting Schedules** and on the Internet (www.doc.ri.gov) under **FAQs/Visits**, under the specific facility through the **Ins/Ops/Facilities** tab, and from the home page in the bottom pull-down menu under the **"I Want To's/Find Visiting Hours."** Word is that having updated visiting schedules posted externally has cut down on the number of calls to the securities.

PHOTO GALLERY

MEET MISS DEMEANOR



Inmate Elena tends to Miss Demeanor



Lt. Joe Avila, C.O. Grace Ellis, and Inmate Elena pose in front of the old GM Building beside Miss Demeanor.

CHANGES ON THE COMPLEX



Construction crews are hard at work on a new parking area in front of the Dix Building.



As a new sign indicates, the Bernadette Building will soon house Minimum and Work Release women.

ADDRESSING WOMEN'S ISSUES



Ginette Ferszt, Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialist and URI Nursing Professor, speaks about her work with female inmates as Pro Jo columnist Bob Kerr listens. He is writing a story about the work she and colleagues Joyce Hickey and Diane Martins (pictured) are doing at the RIDOC. It is scheduled to appear on Sunday.