

# RIDOC Happenings

Volume III, Issue 10

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

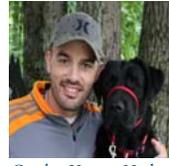
June 19, 2009



Anita Illinger of Waltham and walker dog "Buddy"



Gretchen Korman of Branford, Conn., and service dog "Raider"



Combat Veteran Nathan Ruby of Temple, Tex., and balance/walker dog "Rugby"



Connor Lamoureux of Boylston, Mass., and social dog "JJ"



Brattleboro, Vermont resident Dorothy Bangs and specialty dog "Tasha"

## NEADS Graduation Features Five RIDOC Pups

The Summer 2009 graduating class of NEADS/Dogs for Deaf and Disabled Americans assistance dogs included five RIDOC-trained pups. Held at Hanscom Air Force Base's Minuteman Club, the event took place on **Sunday, June 14th**, before a full house of NEADS clients and supporters. Former American Idol contestant Ayla Brown sang "Hero," and Boston television personality Dan Rea was the guest speaker. Kudos to the many employees in the Medium Price and Moran facilities who are involved with this important program. It truly makes a difference.

## RIBCO Ride Supports Big Brothers of RI



On **Sunday, June 14th**, RIBCO participated in the 2nd annual ride for Big Brothers of RI. Motorcycles and custom/classic cars gathered at **Maximum Security at 10:30 a.m.**, and the ride ended at the FOP Lodge #45, 95 Tanner Ave. in Warwick.

## WPRO's Amazing Women with Deb Ruggiero to Feature Interview with RIDOC Volunteer Ginette Ferszt

Ginette Ferszt, an associate professor at URI's graduate program in psychiatric mental health nursing and long-time volunteer with pregnant women at the RIDOC is one of the "Amazing Women" interviewed by WPRO's Deb Ruggiero for her radio program. The segment will air on Sunday, June 21st, at 8:30 a.m. on WPRO (AM 630 and FM 99.7), at 6:30 a.m. on WPRO FM, and at 6 a.m. on Lite Rock 105.1 FM.

## Reminder: Support the Back to School Program

There is still time to support the *Back to School Program*, a non-profit that provides backpacks full of school supplies to elementary school students from area cities. To support this program, please send a check, made out to "*Back to School Program*" to Maggie Picot in the Pinel Building or to your building manager.



## Prisoner Reentry Discussed in Community Forums

A luncheon forum for business owners and community leaders will be held next **Tuesday, June 23rd**, at Community Baptist Church in Newport. Coordinated by the Newport Reentry Council and Leadership Rhode Island, the event will feature testimonials by ex-offenders who have successfully reentered their communities as well as representatives from area service providers, the RIDOC, and law enforcement. A similar event was held in Woonsocket on Thursday night. The intent is to get these communities to become more invested in prisoner reentry and to recognize their role in lowering recidivism rates by helping ex-offenders to succeed.

## Welcome Interns

Many RIDOC divisions have summer interns helping with various tasks throughout the Department. Feel free to email their names, the school they attend, and a line about what they're doing to assist the Department, and this will be printed in a future edition of *Happenings*.

## Prisoner Reentry Brochures Available

Any RIDOC employee who will be out in the community speaking about the Department or teaching courses at area schools and colleges is welcome to take copies of our prisoner reentry pieces - one targeted to employers and one more general. Just give Tracey Zeckhausen a call at ext. 22609 indicating how many you'll need. Please also remember to fill out a *RIDOC Request to Make a One-Time Presentation* form, available on the Intranet under Forms/Public Relations and Information.

## PHOTO GALLERY

### SPRING GRADUATIONS



From left: Associate Director of Education Timothy Murphy, Director Wall, Academic Teacher Kevin Lavin, Assistant Director for Rehabilitative Services Roberta Richman, and Warden Carole Dwyer at the Spring 2009 Recognition Ceremony in the Dix Building.



Distinguished guests enjoy a rare sighting of the sun at the Education Unit's Recognition Ceremony at Minimum Security.

### LARRY McDONALD RETIRES



After 29 years with the Department, Larry McDonald was recognized with a farewell reception on Wednesday. Above, Dr. Fred Friedman speaks about Larry's many contributions. Below, Larry is congratulated by Deputy Warden Al Leach and Pharmacy Aide Karen Reilly.



### REENTRY IN WOONSOCKET



Probation and Parole Supervisor Michelle Berkeley speaks to a guest at a community forum on Prisoner Reentry held on Thursday at Woonsocket City Hall. In the background is speaker and ex-offender Peter Slom, now a social worker at the RI Training School.

*"...we have  
a choice  
every day  
regarding  
the attitude  
we will  
embrace  
for that day."*

Charles Swindoll

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](http://www.doc.ri.gov)) should be submitted to Tracey E. Zeckhausen, Chief of Information & Public Relations  
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