

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) Commissioner Joan Fabian has announced a name change for the department's Thistledeew Camp in northern Minnesota. "Effectively immediately, Thistledeew Camp will officially be known as the **Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Togo**," Commissioner Fabian said. "This name change is in accordance with state statute and consistent with the naming of state-operated correctional facilities throughout Minnesota." MCF-Togo serves as a residential placement resource for at-risk boys and girls. It is also the site of the department's Challenge Incarceration Program for women offenders. Programming is provided separately for these three populations. MCF-Togo's individual programs will continue to be named: Thistledeew Residential Program; Thistledeew Wilderness Endeavors; Thistledeew Substance Abuse Intervention Program; and Challenge Incarceration Program for Women. For more information, visit www.thistledeewprograms.com. ■

The DOC is committed to enhancing public safety by reducing the risk that offenders bring to the community when released from prison. This requires a strong reentry presence, both in our facilities and our communities. As part of that effort, Commissioner Fabian is pleased to announce the following appointments:

Farris Bell, Community Reintegration Reentry Coordinator, effective February 22, 2006. Bell will work in concert with the Institution Reentry Coordinator, focusing on developing relationships with community resources involved with offender reentry. She will also serve as a member of the steering team for the Minnesota Comprehensive Offender Reentry Plan initiative. Bell has worked for the DOC since 1996 as community reentry director and, most recently, as a caseworker at Lino Lakes.

Kelley Heifort, Transitions Program Director, effective March 1, 2006. Heifort will administer reentry programming at DOC facilities and coordinate services provided through other state agencies. She worked for the DOC as an officer and program coordinator at Shakopee from 1993-2001. Since that time, she has worked for RS Eden as a residential program director. ■

The National Geographic Channel recently filmed a documentary at the **MCF-Oak Park Heights**. The facility was selected because of its longstanding, positive reputation of offering programming to offenders in a maxi-

mum-security setting – unique compared to most facilities at this security level. The MCF-Oak Park Heights has received worldwide attention since it opened in 1982 for its incentive-based programming, staff professionalism, plant security, and progressive philosophy in offender relations. The documentary hopes to provide an insider's view of the facility's daily operation, including interviews with staff and offenders. It is tentatively scheduled to air sometime in March or April, 2006. ■

David Wilmes, Deputy Director of Special Investigations for the DOC, is retiring effective April 14. Wilmes began his corrections career of 32 years at the MCF-Stillwater as a corrections officer. In 1980, he was appointed discipline investigator until 1991 when he was named internal affairs investigator. In 1995 Wilmes graduated from the Police Forensic Pathology Specialist Program and became the first death investigator for incarcerated deaths in DOC correctional facilities. In 1997 Wilmes joined the newly formed Office of Special Investigations, which the legislature designated an official law enforcement agency in 2000. At that time, Wilmes earned POST Board certification as a licensed peace officer in the State of Minnesota and began supervising the DOC's fugitive apprehension effort. A celebration honoring the man and his work is planned on April 13 at General Sam's Bar in Somerset, Wisconsin. Cost is \$25 per person and includes hors d'oeuvres and a gift contribution. RSVP by April 10 to Cari Gerlicher at 651/642-0419. ■

MCF-Lino Lakes employees were part of the Special Olympics Minnesota (SOMN) Polar Plunge on January 21, 2006. Sponsored by the White Bear Lake VFW, nearly 230 participants from across the state "plunged" into White Bear Lake in 20-degree temperatures to raise funds for and awareness of SOMN. Because of staff efforts, the Lino Lakes facility has also been named to the fundraising honor roll for the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run to be held June 22. In FY2005, Minnesota law enforcement and correctional agencies raised a record \$460,000 for SOMN. Visit www.somn.org for additional information. ■

Offenders at the MCF-Stillwater recently contributed nearly \$700 to the American Red Cross. The donation was earmarked for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. ■

Guy Bosch has been named Director of Classification for the Minnesota DOC, effective February 10, 2006. Bosch will be responsible for managing the offender classification system that determines each inmate's custody level and programming. He will also manage the facility transfer system that determines offender placement. "It is crucial that classification and transfer functions are consistently applied and make the best use of available technology and placement opportunities for our increasing offender population," said Commissioner Fabian in announcing the appointment. Bosch started in the DOC in 1989 at the MCF-St. Cloud as an officer. He transferred to the MCF-Faribault in 1992 and worked as an officer, case manager, lieutenant, and program director. His most recent assignment has been supervising case management for DOC offenders housed at Prairie Correctional Facility through a contract. ■

A **Sentencing to Service offender work crew** has been helping to renovate the Paradise Center for the Arts in Faribault, Minnesota. Crew members have removed and hauled away the old cement basement floor and cast-iron boiler, and they will assist with renovation efforts. Center officials are pleased with the crew's work over the past six months, which has reduced the cost of the project. The crew is made up of offenders from the Rice County Jail, Jail Annex, and the MCF-Faribault, and they work under the supervision of Crew Leader Ed Fritz. ■

Art Cavara, Ramsey County Correctional Facility Superintendent, has announced his retirement. Cavara's correctional career spans more than four decades in adult and juvenile services, serving as superintendent for more than 12 years. A celebration in his honor is planned for February 17 from 2-5 p.m. at the Green Mill, 6025 Hudson Road, Woodbury (94 at Century Avenue). Stories or thoughts about Cavara can be emailed to angel.lang@co.ramsey.mn.us or call Angel at 651/266-1447 for additional information. ■

A new housing unit at the **MCF-Lino Lakes** was featured in the September/October 2005 issue of *Architecture Minnesota*. The layout of the "K"-shaped building, designed by BWBR Architects of St. Paul, allows officers to observe all four wings from one location. Completed in October 2004 to replace several smaller buildings constructed in the 1960s, the new unit houses 416 adult male offenders in double-bunked cells. ■

OPENINGS

Deputy Director, Community Corrections, Stillwater, Minnesota. Salary range to be determined. Primary duties: 1)

administer major programs, in and across divisions, in the Department of Community Corrections; 2) develop standards, controls, and policies necessary to administer various programs and services, and assume responsibility for maintenance of standards within the framework of established policies; and 3) coordinate work toward the department's overall objective. Required qualifications: graduation from an accredited four-year college and seven years of full-time paid experience in a corrections or related organization, two years of which must have been in a supervisory or administrative capacity. Completion of a graduate degree in criminal justice, public administration, or a related field of study may be substituted for two years of full-time paid experience in a corrections organization. To apply for this position, send or fax a Washington County application form and resume by February 14, 2006, to the Washington County Human Resources Department, 14949 - 62nd Street North, P.O. Box 6, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082, fax 651/430-6086. Candidates selected for an interview will be required to bring a completed supplemental application form to the interview. For more information about this position and to obtain application forms, visit www.co.washington.mn.us. ■

Superintendent, Adult Correctional Facility (unclassified), Ramsey County Community Corrections Department. Salary range: \$67,260-\$100,020. This position reports directly to the director of the Community Corrections Department and manages overall functions and operations of a secure, custodial, correctional facility for adult offenders. Applicants must possess a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, social sciences, public administration, business management, or a related field; plus nine years experience in a criminal justice agency or corrections including at least two years as a supervisor or manager in a custodial facility. Interested candidates should contact the Ramsey County Human Resources Department at 651/266-2700 for application and information materials or visit www.co.ramsey.mn.us/hr/hrjobs.asp. Resumes will be accepted until a sufficient number of qualified applicants have applied; however, applicants should respond promptly. Minorities and females are encouraged to apply. ■

OTHER NEWS

The DOC Shakopee Field Services District has been renamed the **Chaska District** and has moved: Minnesota Department of Corrections, 112 East Fifth Street, Suite 100, Chaska, Minnesota 55318, phone 952/361-3077, fax 952/361-3430. Staff located at the new office include Dayna Burmeister (District Supervisor); Linda Baker, Molly Bice, and Michelle Puyear. ■