

NEWS IN CORRECTIONS

Sherry Hill has been selected as Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC) *2005 Agent of the Year*. Hill, of Bemidji, began her career with the DOC in November of 1987 as a corrections officer at the Minnesota Correctional Facility-Lino Lakes. In 1992 she was promoted to case manager, and in 1996 she transferred to the Bemidji District as a corrections agent. She was promoted to career corrections agent in 1998. Hill is currently one of two enhanced sex offender supervision agents in the Bemidji office and must interact with numerous community people in the performance of her duties, including professionals involved with the treatment and supervision of sex offenders. She participates in sex offender treatment groups and is part of a nationally-recognized collaborative that deals with sex offender management in Bemidji and surrounding areas. She is viewed by her colleagues as a mentor and team player who is always available to provide advice and assistance.

In addition to her professional duties, Hill is very involved with the community. She has been a member of the Bemidji Area Special Olympics Committee as well as a fundraiser for Bemidji State University. Recently, Hill was inducted into the Bemidji State University Hall of Fame and in 2001 was inducted into the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame for her contributions in volleyball, basketball, and track and field.

The DOC selects an *Agent of the Year* as part of its annual recognition of *National Probation, Parole, & Community Supervision Week*, held this year July 17-23. This national recognition celebrates the work of agents across the United States who enhance public safety by monitoring over five million offenders under some form of community correctional supervision. ■

Lynn Dingle has been appointed warden at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (MCF)-Stillwater, effective August 2, 2005. Dingle previously served as warden at the MCF-Oak Park Heights. Her successor at Oak Park Heights has not yet been announced. Dingle succeeds **Dan Ferrise**, who left to accept a opportunity outside state service. ■

Bruce Besse, District Supervisor for the DOC Detroit Lakes district, has announced his plans to retire after nearly 36 years of state service. A celebration in Besse's honor will be held August 1 from 1-4 p.m. at the Minnesota Department of Corrections District Office, Second Floor, Wells Fargo Bank Building, 211 West Holmes Street, Detroit Lakes. For further information, phone Judy Zurn at 218/846-0724. ■

Some Minnesota residents who live in the area at the junctions of St. Paul, West St. Paul, and South St. Paul recently expressed their gratitude for the work performed by an **Institution/Community Work Crew** of the Minnesota Department of Corrections. Crew members cleared an area of fallen trees and debris along the west side of Highway 52 that had become an eyesore and a magnet for juvenile misbehavior. Residents complemented the crew and Crew Leader Steve Johnson on their efforts and enthusiasm. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thistledeew Camp, operated by the Minnesota Department of Corrections, is a treatment resource for juveniles who have experienced failure in the home, school, and community. It is also the site of the department's Challenge Incarceration Program (boot camp) for adult women. Thistledeew celebrates its **50th anniversary** on August 25, 2005, with tours and a brief program planned. For additional information about the anniversary celebration, contact Christine Phillips at cphillips@thd.doc.state.mn.us or Melinda Seopa at mseopa@thd.doc.state.mn.us, or phone either of them at 218/376-4411. For more information about Thistledeew, visit www.thistledeewcamp.com. ■

Growing the Connections: Restorative Philosophy and Practices is planned for October 14-15, 2005, at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The conference provides workshops on a variety of topics from the areas of criminal justice, education, family services, conflict resolution, and peacemaking. Visit www.mnmrsc.org for registration information. Also

available at this site is information on the Minnesota Restorative Services Coalition (MRSC) 2005 Training Academy, offering seven different training options October 10-13, prior to the *Growing the Connections Conference*. ■

Registration materials are now available on-line for *Clearing the Path for Girls & Women – A Call for Action*, the 11th National Workshop on Adult & Juvenile Female Offenders to be held October 15-19, 2005, at the Marriott Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota. This conference will provide a forum for those who work with girls and women in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Participants from around the nation and Canada will have an opportunity to meet one another, exchange ideas, deepen alliances, celebrate successes, and promote promising practices on behalf of women, girls, and communities. Visit www.ajfo.org to find out about pre-conference workshops, keynote speakers, lodging, and registration. ■

OPENINGS

Probation officer, a highly responsible position working with medium and high-risk offenders. Provides investigative and diagnostic services for the court and the Department of Corrections; casework, treatment, or supervision groups; and other related duties. Must have an understanding of the criminal justice system, victim rights, substance abuse issues, violence issues, and criminogenic factors. Work will include some nights, occasional weekends, and holidays. Requires a B.A. or B.S. degree from an accredited college with a major in a social science field and two years related experience. Applications are required and can be obtained at www.olmstedcounty.com. Return completed application by July 26, 2005, to Government Center, Human Resources Department, 151 – 4th Street Southeast, Rochester, Minnesota 55904-3710. Questions can be directed to 507/285-8333. ■

Jail/corrections administrator. St. Louis County (Duluth, Minnesota). St. Louis County operates one jail facility located in Duluth and two lock-up facilities (at the courthouses in Hibbing and Virginia). Salary: \$4,502/month. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in behavioral science, social science, corrections administration, police science, education or a related field; AND four years full-time paid experience in a supervisory or responsible program/opera-

tions coordinator position in a criminal justice agency or detention facility; AND possession of a valid driver's license. For an application, contact the St. Louis County Civil Service/Personnel Department, 100 North 5th Avenue West, Room 1, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, or phone 218/726-2422 (voice), 218/725-5065 (employment hotline), 218/725-5198 (TTY), or www.co.st-louis.mn.us. Apply by August 5, 2005. ■

OTHER NEWS

The Minnesota Correctional Education Foundation (MCEF) will hold its first **Golf Open - Best Ball Scramble** - on July 28, 2005, at Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake, Minnesota. MCEF's mission is to provide eligible offenders with appropriate academic and vocational opportunities to prepare them for release as productive and contributing citizens. MCEF is also inaugurating the "MCEF Traveling Institution Trophy" for the DOC institution team that wins over all other participating institutions. Persons interested in learning more about how to support MCEF through the Golf Open may contact Curt Peterson at 651/642-0285 or curt@mcef.info. For a copy of the registration brochure, visit MCEF's website at www.mcef.info. ■

The 15th Annual Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) **Golf Tournament** is set for Monday, September 19, 2005, at Pebble Creek Golf Club in Becker, Minnesota. This event is a four-person scramble, with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Tournament fee is \$56 per person, which includes green fees, cart, lunch, awards, and prizes. Trophies will be awarded for the foursome with the lowest gross, second-lowest gross, longest putt, longest drive for men and women, and closest to the pin. Registration deadline is August 29, 2005. Forms are located on MCA website at www.mncorrections.org/mca/golf.htm. For additional information, contact Chris Jahnke, Wright County Court Services, at 763/682-7862 or christopher.jahnke@co.wright.mn.us. ■