

THE JUSTICE JOURNAL

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FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

PREVIEW ISSUE

Homeland Security Funds Cut in CT *Police Departments Find Ways to Cope*

By DAWN A. MICELI
Staff Reporter

A plan for a statewide emergency alert system has been squelched for now. It is being replaced with less-expensive multi-town training drills as a means of economizing following a federal payout of fewer-than-expected homeland security dollars.

Connecticut was granted \$13 million this year to protect residents from terrorist or "naturally occurring acts" - a 40% reduction from 2005 funding, which totaled \$21 million. In 2004, the state received \$41.6 million in homeland security grants.

"It means that we have to stretch the dollars as best as we can to help our communities," said Wayne Sandford, deputy commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. "We'll try to do regional initiatives and get the towns to work together in a regional way."

Emergency officials had hoped to secure \$30 million to pay for various training methods and equipment to better safeguard the state, Sandford said. Connecticut's 2006 budget request wasn't fully funded. "Did we take a hit? Yes, we did. But if you look across the board, every state took a hit," he said, further noting that Connecticut wound up 15th in the nation in



Drills such as these help prepare rescuers for terrorist attacks as well as other disasters despite budget cuts.

Photo courtesy: CT. Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

terms of federal funding.

That "hit" means no mobile data terminals, which, when linked together throughout the state's municipalities, were going to create a sort of "Amber Alert" system for emergency responders.

"Some communities have them already because they spent their own money on them...But we wanted to add them to another 30-plus police departments plus fire departments around the state," said Sandford.

The computers operate in two ways: first, as a database for information on disaster sites, such as floor plans and structural design; and second, as a one-stop communication system for police, fire and emergency medical personnel. The state's current intelligence system operates at a deficit when an incident is deemed non-life threatening, Sandford said. "If there's suspicious activity in Norwalk and we want to share it throughout the state, it could take five or six days to happen," he explained. "Whereas this system would allow a message to be sent out in minutes. Kind of like an Amber Alert only a homeland security alert."

At \$3,500 per terminal, that project has been scrapped for now and replaced with something more cost effective - regional training exercises.

(See Homeland Security on page 8)

Fight Against Underage Drinking Raises Issues

By JIM BREWER
Staff Reporter

It has been a rite of passage for some adolescents for generations - that first drinking experience - illegal or not. Many teens see alcohol as their first step to adulthood - and sometimes, that results in disaster.

Police Chief Al Fiore of Westport has dealt with underage drinking for many years. When the Westport Youth Commission brought the issue to then-First Selectwoman Diane Farrell and Chief Fiore, what emerged was a proposal from the Public Protection Committee to enact an ordinance that would impose a \$99 infraction to any person under 21 consuming alcohol. That proposal set off a firestorm of debate that ranged from fear it would allow police to "invade" private homes, to having sons or daughters names in newspapers, and create problems with college applications.

Parents and Police question rights and responsibilities

The proposed ordinance was voted down on October 11, 2005 BY Westport's Representative Town Meeting. Chief Fiore says the proposal will never be brought up again. He said he was offended by the fact that residents of his town believed the police department would violate constitutional protections.

"My big concern was that parents didn't have enough faith in this police department, that they believed the ordinance would be abused... I resented that... I understand that it is a cultural decision to serve alcohol to your children at home. Serving wine with dinner is fine -- it is up to you," but he warns,

"don't do it with the neighbor's kids."

As is the situation in many Connecticut communities, Westport has seen a trend where the parents supply alcohol to their own and other children. Chief Fiore says a minority of parents in town think this is OK. He even has a running debate with a parent who believes that serving alcohol at home in a "controlled" environment protects the children. Chief Fiore states that parents are mistaken if they think that by serving alcohol at home, their children won't

use it elsewhere. "Parents are putting a lot of faith in a 16-year old to say it's OK to drink here at home but not anywhere else."



Westport Police Chief
Al Fiore

"Home drinking" may sound good to some parents, but the reality has been quite different. Many teens believe that since parents let them drink when the parents are at home, then it is all right to drink and serve alcohol when they are away. In Westport, the result has been a number of "parties gone wild" - a party of 6 turns into a party of 60. Uninvited guests arrive, become intoxicated and then "trash" the home, resulting in extreme cases of vandalism, fights and even non-consensual sex. Chief Fiore says some homes have been virtually destroyed. At times it is the teenager throwing the party who calls the police. Other times, it is a neighbor. "Kids 16-17 just don't know the downside," says Chief Fiore.

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THE JUSTICE JOURNAL

FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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Letter from the Publisher:

Welcome to the Preview Issue of the THE JUSTICE JOURNAL an advance look at a new publication dedicated to improving the safety of our community. We will begin publishing monthly in January. Like many new ventures, the idea evolved from a personal experience.

In the fall of 2004, I received a call from one of my oldest friends who was considering a major career change. He was being recruited for an interesting position in the Department of Homeland Security. I recall being impressed by the great opportunity this presented for a capable professional to serve our country in an important way. I could hardly contain my enthusiasm as I waited to hear the details.

Awkwardly, he then told me he had already declined the offer. I was stunned and asked "Why?" The answer infuriated me. In a word, it was "politics."

My friend explained that with the 2004 Presidential election approaching, there was the possibility of a change in the administration. If that were to happen, he said it was likely that four months into his new job, he would be swept out with the political turnover -- a risk he couldn't afford at that point in his life. As I listened to his explanation, I had to reluctantly accept the reality that the Department of Homeland Security would miss the contribution of a well qualified, motivated individual. Justifying the reason why was even more difficult to accept. That conversation began a process that resulted in the newspaper you are now reading.

I have become unwilling to accept the reality that our basic safety as Americans is subject to partisan politics. In a post 9/11 world, the security of our homes and families should be a non-negotiable, practical issue -- not simply fodder for political debate and gain. Today we face uncertainty in so many aspects of our everyday life. Identity theft, Internet-related scams, local street crime and reports of terrorism have left many of us feeling more vulnerable than ever. Yet we give relatively little thought to the process of our security. Most of us simply expect to be safe, with very little contemplation about how this security is actually achieved; that is, until something goes wrong or we are victimized. Then suddenly we are frustrated because the justice system did not protect us.

Often this anger is channeled into finger-pointing and assigning blame. We ask "Where were the police? Where was the government?" Thus begins the fruitless chorus of criticism which has no practical effect on our safety, but creates a sense of resentment among those truly dedicated to protecting us.

In developing the concept for The JUSTICE JOURNAL, my business partner Ted Holcomb and I spent many hours meeting with local and state law enforcement professionals. The more we came to understand the challenges these men and women face in their effort to keep us safe, the more we understood the critical need to facilitate a journalistic dialogue. Our safety, whether it is local or national, depends on our own willingness to reject apathy and actively participate.

Each month beginning in January we will encourage you to stay alert, pay attention and get involved. The goal of The JUSTICE JOURNAL is to offer you an opportunity to begin or enhance your involvement in public and personal safety. We will strive to be a platform where intelligent, thoughtful, and practical solutions to our security challenges are debated and discussed. We are not another forum for political rhetoric. We need and welcome your input and promise to serve you with the best in civic journalism. GET INVOLVED!

Sincerely,

Doug Johnston

From the Editor's Desk:

The Start of a Partnership

*"Everyone is special in their own way
 We make each other strong
 We're not the same
 We're different in a good way
 We're all in this together..."*

fictional plots for books, plays, or movies, are eclipsed by the realities of everyday life and death.

"We're all in this together..."

When the campaign for "An Army of One" premiered in 2001, there were those who ridiculed the concept. Some claimed it was oxymoronic because an "army" by definition requires people. However, look closely at the idea of what *one person* could contribute to the cause of freedom --and what would happen if each of us did that. The concept of "An Army of One" applied to what it will take to assure the preservation of our life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, looks like *the best way* for America to survive. No one else can do it for us.

"We're all in this together..."

We look forward to being a "journalistic army of one," working with all who seek and would assure that priceless "liberty and justice for all..." --because, as the young people in "High School Musical" put it:

"We're all in this together..."

Sincerely,

Kenn Venit
 Managing Editor

Meet The Justice Journal Staff Writers:

KENN VENIT, managing editor, has over 40 years' experience in journalism. He has edited newspapers and worked in broadcast news in Philadelphia and Connecticut. Kenn is an adjunct associate professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University and also teaches a First Amendment course at Southern Connecticut State University. A past president of the Connecticut Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Kenn has two professional "lifetime achievement" awards and numerous awards for reporting. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Temple University. (One of Kenn's daughters is a former police detective sergeant who is married to a police patrol sergeant.)

ANDY THIBAULT, a former investigative reporter for daily newspapers in Connecticut, is a private investigator, author of Law & Justice in Everyday Life, an award-winning columnist for Law Tribune Newspapers, and an adjunct instructor at Western Connecticut State University. He is the author of the History of the Connecticut State Police. Andy is a former commissioner and hearing officer for the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission. He is a member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers and the Society of American Business Editors and Writers. He is also a licensed professional boxing judge.

GRANT STINCHFIELD is an investigative reporter for an NBC-owned TV station and has been a contributor to MSNBC. Among his special areas of reporting are consumer fraud (especially identity theft) and unsolved murders. He has won four Emmy awards and has had 16 nominations. Other honors include Mothers Against Drunk Driving Journalist of the Year, Associated Press Investigative Reporting Award, Connecticut Safe Kids Achievement Award, and the International Association of Firefighters Achievement Award.

JIM BREWER is a former practicing attorney with a Juris Doctor degree from the U. of Bridgeport, and a bachelor's degree from the U. of Hartford where he majored in criminal justice. Jim specialized in representing law enforcement personnel. As a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he commanded a military police unit at a nuclear weapons site in Germany and learned anti-terrorism tactics. Jim has been an assistant prosecutor, a special deputy sheriff, and a guest expert on MSNBC. He is now a consultant to attorneys and a freelance photographer and writer.

TEALE CALIENDO was an educator who changed careers to become a reporter. She has been in Connecticut journalism for more than two decades. After a distinguished career in radio news in Connecticut, she

joined WFSB-TV Channel 3 and became Shoreline Bureau Chief. After years as a corporate communications executive, Teale founded a communications consultation company, which she continues to head, while also continuing writing as a free-lance reporter. Teale is a licensed justice of the peace, and among other responsibilities, enjoys performing marriage ceremonies.

DAWN A. MICELI has worked for various newspapers and other publications throughout Connecticut for a decade and a half. She served as managing editor of an award-winning newspaper, responsible for the layout and editorial content of the 65-page weekly publication, and now is on the staff of an alumni magazine for a Connecticut school. Dawn is an adjunct assistant professor of journalism at Quinnipiac University, teaching courses focusing on writing and reporting. Dawn also appears live on WTIC-TV FOX61 hosting Connecticut Lottery Corporation's mid-day drawings.

PAMELA FALCIGNO is a freelance journalist who specializes in stories about law enforcement. Among her assignments has been covering the National Association of Fugitive Investigators Conference in New Orleans, where she interviewed people associated with producing the FOX TV program, America's Most Wanted. Pamela is involved with public affairs programming on two local public access television channels, one on a Charter Cable system, the other on a Comcast Cable system. She earned her bachelor's degree at Alberus Magnus College, majoring in communications/political science.

DAVID SCALES is a freelance journalist whose work has appeared in a variety of newspapers and magazines across Connecticut. He earned his master's degree in journalism as well as his bachelor's degree in mass communications at Quinnipiac University. He is a contributor to the book, *Helping Your Children Cope with Your Cancer: A Guide for Parents and Families*. David's hobbies include writing fiction and SCUBA diving.

JOHN PALMER, a Norwalk native, has written for several Connecticut daily newspapers, including the Norwalk Hour, the Advocate of Stamford, and the Connecticut Post. He was a public safety officer at Sacred Heart University and is an American Red Cross CPR and First Aid Instructor. John is completing a program for certification as an emergency medical technician. He has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Southern Connecticut State University and is working toward his master's degree in education at Sacred Heart University.

Those lyrics come from a song in the popular made-for-television Disney Channel movie, "High School Musical." I have heard them a gazillion times, thanks to my six grandchildren and their never-ending desire to watch the DVD over and over. But up until now, I did not realize a link between those lyrics and the launch of *The Justice Journal*. Here it is: For the publishers and staffers to succeed, we must make this journalism enterprise a *partnership* -between the newspaper, the law enforcement community, the entire justice system, and you, in the original tradition of the press in America as "The Fourth Estate."

"We're all in this together..."

Our world has changed so dramatically in all of our lifetimes...centenarians and newborns alike. World, national, and local events come at us in rapid-fire succession via a multitude of media -sometimes lacking in context, accuracy, fairness, and objectivity. Previously unimagined threats and dangers abound -not just overseas, but even in our neighborhoods. What once might have not even been considered believable



**Attorney
Richard T. Meehan, Jr.**

VERSUS

Limits on the National Security Agency

A front-burner issue for all Americans is how far government should or can reach using national security as a justification for various activities.

A federal district court judge in Detroit, Anne Taylor Diggs, has shut down the National Security Agency's surreptitious surveillance program that allowed secret government monitoring of emails and phone calls in the Bush administration's battle on terror. Conservative authors have branded her as a political heretic, leaving the impression that she is a card-carrying liberal hell bent on handcuffing the forces of good in its battle with Al Qaeda. Whether you accept this position or believe that she is discharging the oath of office she took to uphold the constitution, Judge Diggs has succeeded in forcing the debate over the President's exercise of executive authority to eventually reach the level where true Constitutional discourse belongs, the Supreme Court.

President Bush and Attorney General Gonzalez have accused the judge of diluting the efforts to flush out terror operatives. Democratic leadership hailed the decision which ruled in favor of an action brought by the ACLU citing privacy and separation of powers issues.

Shortly after 9/11, America was prepared to accept any initiative by the Bush administration to combat the horror visited on New York. We blindly followed a President who appeared to emerge with strength and conviction as a true leader. With the debacle over WMD's and Bush's plummeting popularity and credibility, are we so quick now to accept the administration's claims that such unfettered powers are needed to allow immediate reaction to perceived terror threats? The ACLU argued successfully that the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act provided an immediate means to obtain secret search warrants to address suspected terrorist activity.

What particularly offended Judge Diggs was the chilling notion that counsel appointed to represent those suspected of terror ties, were, themselves, the objects of unregulated surreptitious surveillance. Her analysis exalts the Constitution framers' notion that a free, democratic society can only maintain itself if we honor the concept of the separation of powers. Her analysis does not criticize an agenda that advances the need to root out terror through any lawful means. She decries the right of an elected President to begin to exercise the type of unrestrained and unchecked authority that is the hallmark of despotism.

What Most Offended forces of the conservative right was the audacity of a mere judge noting, "There are no hereditary kings in America," and that all Presidential power derives from and therefore is subservient to the Constitution. Republicans have claimed the decision is partisan in its underbelly, pointing out that Taylor is a Carter appointee. News accounts that followed praised or derided the ruling, reflecting more the politics of the authors rather than a scholarly assessment of Judge Driggs' analysis.

How do we balance our time-tested devotion to the concept of individual liberty and the rights embodied within the First Amendment guarantees of free speech? The protection of the Fourth Amendment prohibiting warrantless searches extends to all manner of electronic surveillance. It was the concept that the King of England possessed such unfettered power that lead the Framers to add the Fourth Amendment to our Bill of Rights.

Law enforcement has adapted to the insistence of Congress and the courts that this constitutional mandate is a paramount civil liberty protecting our privacy from unwarranted government intrusion. Courts have carved out exceptions to the warrant requirement when there are clear exigencies involved. Police obtain search warrants at all hours, and never fail to find a judge to review and issue a warrant when immediately needed in an active investigation.

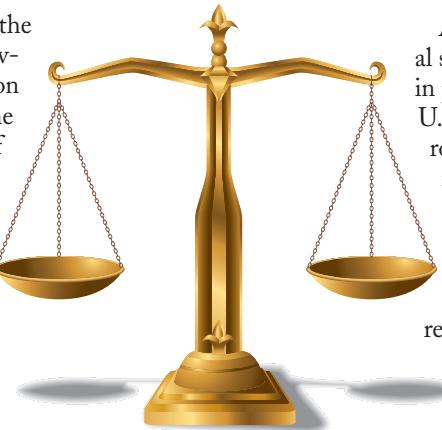
The foreign intelligence act goes even farther in permitting secret warrants, but the rub is this, there is an objective third party prior review of the demand for such a warrant, extending, even to this spy scenario the protection the Fourth Amendment has created. So, when those card carrying ACLU types said, "We just can't blindly follow you anymore, W." the judge listened.

Attacking Judge Diggs' scholarship doesn't help focus the debate. In a free and open society, a concept she clearly finds paramount, the question of whether the Constitution grants such untrammeled power to the President should be the subject of open debate. Let the President make his case to the proper authority, that his Constitutional grant of executive authority trumps the dictates of the Fourth Amendment. Throughout the last 50 years, the Supreme Court has attempted to define the limits of such authority in the many cases that have challenged the legality of warrantless searches and seizures. The limits on such searches have been constantly shifting as the composition of the Supreme Court changes with new appointments. As the case winds its way to the Supreme Court, remember that it was established by the Constitution to serve as a check & balance on the power of Congress and the President to act outside the law.

No, Judge Anne Taylor Diggs has not handed AL Qaeda a victory. What she has done is set the framework for a public debate, the cornerstone of a free, democratic society. After all, isn't that what the NSA is supposed to protect?

Attorney Richard T. Meehan, Jr. is a past president of the Greater Bridgeport Bar Association. He has lectured frequently to the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association-People's Law School, Greater Bridgeport Bar Association, and Fairfield County Detectives School, and has held appointments as an Adjunct Associate Professor in the Legal Studies Program at Sacred Heart University, and as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Quinnipiac College School of Law, where he taught an advanced criminal trial practice course. Meehan was the lead defense counsel for former Bridgeport Mayor Joseph Ganim's corruption trial. He has obtained multi-million dollar verdicts and settlements in complex medical and dental malpractice and personal injury litigation. Meehan is a frequent legal analyst on CourtTV's "The Best defense with Jami Floyd," and "Courtside with Ashleigh Banfield and Jack Ford."

**Former DEA
& FBI Special Agent
Robert J. Strang**



As CEO of Strang Hayes /Investigative Management Group, a leading international security consulting company, I have witnessed the growing concern our country faces in protecting our families, co-workers and property from harm. I have worked with the U.S. Justice Department for over ten years, co-headed the New York State Anti-Terrorist Commission, and currently serve as a co-chair with New York State Assemblyman James Tedisco of the task force Unified Against the Challenges of Terrorism (U.A.C.T.).

The recent decision by Federal Judge Anne Taylor Diggs reflects the difficulty in balancing individual rights and allowing our government the means to protect and maintain those democratic liberties that keep us safe. Her decision reflects the checks and balances in our system of government and demonstrates that it is the responsibility of the judicial branch to interpret the law and adhere to the Constitution. The 4th amendment protects our civil liberties from unwarranted government intrusion. Our judicial system has interpreted this protection to allow certain exceptions when our civil liberties are curtailed. In addition, Congress has also created laws to allow for specific instances when government can intrude our privacy. Although the current issue, focuses on the legality of the current administration's surveillance program. The big picture should evaluate the success of our efforts on the war on terror and we should focus on solutions that allow our government the means to continue to protect and thwart forces that would seek to do us harm. Our government has conceived a strategy that focuses on three factors: intelligence, enforcement, and physical security.

Intelligence is built in relevant information that is gained through wiretaps, email intercepts; interviews, infiltration and surveillance. This must be accomplished domestically and abroad. In addition, this administration has sought methods to ensure that this information is shared from local police department to law enforcement agencies at the federal level - from top to bottom.

Enforcement acts in conjunction with and based on relevant intelligence. In order to achieve better enforcement we have increased the investigative powers of law enforcement agencies through the Patriot Act. In addition, various government bureaucracies responsible for security and military functions were reorganized. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created to coordinate "homeland security" efforts in the largest reorganization of the U.S. federal government since the consolidation of the armed forces into the Department of Defense. These statutory and administrative steps were achieved by the legislative and executive branches working together.

The third prong is security. Security has been strengthened through the consolidation and creation of DHS. We are attempting ways to monitor and control access to our borders. And we will continue on solutions for port security and transportation.

This is a crucial time and crossroad in our country's history. The current administration has developed a counterterrorist strategy that focuses on intelligence, enforcement, and security, and this strategy has safeguarded our interests and foiled many recent attempts designed to terrorize our country. Our government will continue to be pro-active and focus on the means to protect us from harm. What is crucial - is that if the means are judged to be unconstitutional, then our legislative branch needs to pass laws that will enable our law enforcement the "means" to continue their work. Our goal - whether you are democratic, republican or whatever your religious persuasion - is the same, that is protect our democratic principles and protect our families.

Robert Strang is one of the world's leading corporate investigative specialists serving major financial institutions, Fortune 500 companies, large law firms and high net-worth individuals and families. Strang joined the FBI in 1979. From 1980 to 1989, he was a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. In 1989, he and fellow DEA agent Ann Hayes formed Strang Hayes. In 2001, they sold the firm was sold to SPX Corporation. In 2003, they founded Investigative Management Group. Strang has served as a consultant to the New York State Senate Investigative Committee and recently co-chaired the New York Senate Anti-Terrorism Task Force. He now co-chairs the U.A.C.T. Task Force (Unified Against the Challenges of Terrorism), an independent entity established by the Minority Leader of the New York State Assembly to analyze security issues and preparedness in New York. Strang appears regularly on national and cable news programs providing expert analysis on terrorism, security and investigative matters. He is also often quoted in The New York Times, Forbes, USA Today and other business publications.

Reader Response:



Do you have an idea or suggestion for a topic you would like to see debated in this column?

If so, please let us know. Contact us at:
editor@thejusticejournal.com

Scam of the Month:

“Vishing” Joins “Phishing” as Consumer Fraud

By GRANT STINCHFIELD
Staff Reporter

Accountant David Horowitz of Stamford learned the hard way that Internet scam artists will go to great lengths to steal your money. The cyberworld is also an underworld -a virtual ocean teaming with shark-like con artists looking to feed off unsuspecting consumers.

‘Phishing’ scams are quite common. You get an e-mail that appears to be from a legitimate company. The email asks you to verify your account information because the company recently experienced a breach in its database security. You click on the link and are soon directed to a site that looks exactly like the legitimate site. You fill out all the information requested and send it off, unknowingly, to a crook who will soon steal your identity.

Many people caught on to these scams, so the cybercriminals were forced to adjust, some turning to “VOIP” -Voice Over Internet Protocol. It’s the new technology that allows people to make cheap or even free phone calls over the Internet. Thieves are now using VOIP to dupe consumers into handing over their most personal and private information.

‘Vishing’ is the name of the new data mining scam. Instead of getting an email, you get a phone call from your bank. David Horowitz explained he had received a call, and saw the name of his bank on the caller-ID. “The guy



said he needed to verify my password, that there had been some unusual activity on my account...I then gave him my social security number and date of birth.” Horowitz says even he is stunned he fell for the “con.”

Like thousands of others across the country, Horowitz fell for the scam because of the legitimate-looking display on the caller ID. “I saw

the name of my bank and felt safe it wasn’t a scam,” Horowitz says he deals with banks every day. “I had no idea the caller-ID can lie.” It can, when VOIP is being used!

Anyone with a little computer knowledge can program hijacked names and phone numbers to appear on your caller-ID. Hackers can even send those old-fashioned “Phishing” emails, but instead of telling unsuspecting victims to click on a link, they ask them to call a bogus Voice Over Internet Proto-

col phone number. The thief then answers the phone as if he is at your bank or credit card company. And because Voice Over Internet Protocol numbers can be set up and broken down in just minutes it’s almost impossible for law enforcement to track or trace the phone numbers.

There are ways to spot a VOIP scam. In

many cases, the scammer will only refer to you by your last name. Banks are required to use your full name when they call you - if they don’t use your full name, hang up the phone

Never call a number listed in an email or receive over the phone. Instead, call the number on the back of your credit card or the one listed on your bank statement. And never give your account number to anyone who calls and claims to be from your bank or credit card company.

“Consumers need to be extra-vigilant when giving out their information on the phone,” says Paul Henry, vice president of strategic accounts for Secure Computing Corporation. The California-based expert on internet scams gives one key warning to all consumers: “Common sense is the first line of protection.”

It’s scary to realize computer hackers have found a way to deceive even your common sense. Next time you look at your caller-ID and see one name and number, don’t be so sure you really know who’s calling! Most scammers are intelligent, creative, and eager to find new ways to fool the average consumer. It’s quite a challenge to keep up with these bottom feeders and the devilish and dangerous schemes they devise. As soon as you figure out one scam, they come up with another.

Questions or comments for Grant?
g.stinchfield@thejusticejournal.com

Rx Pattern Analysis Tracking Robberies & Other Losses

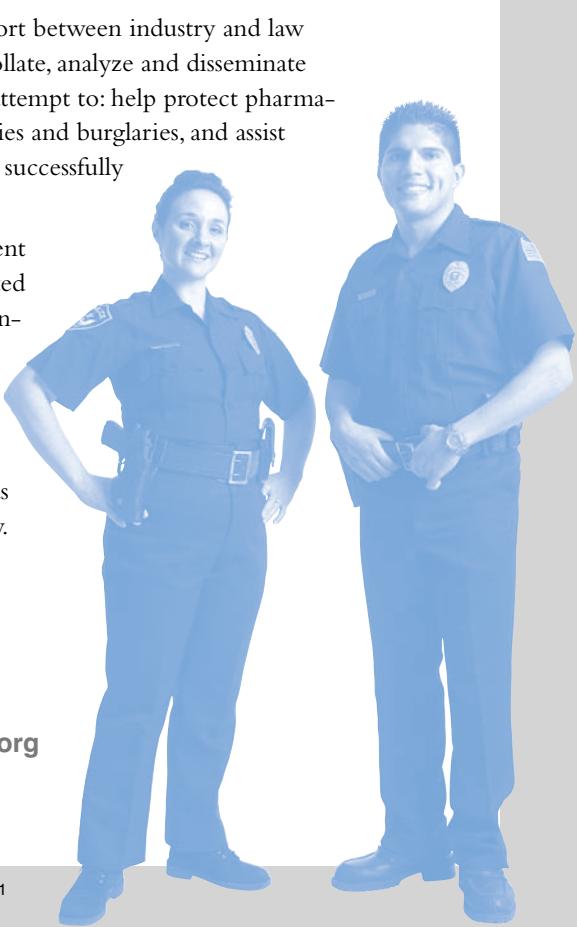
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By DAVID SCALES
Staff Reporter

Lt. Mike Walsh of the Fairfield Police Department is on the lookout for citizens who can help prevent or solve crimes. He says there is a “recipe for success” when it comes to determining whether information from the public is going to be helpful: “Involvement, civic duty and some reliability to their witness’s accounts... can make all the difference.” He says that’s the formula “whether it’s someone calling to report narcotics activity in confidence, or witnessing an assault or street level traffic accidents, or perhaps some concerns about something that’s going on in their neighborhood.”

If somebody is willing to talk to police after witnessing something such as a traffic accident, Lt. Walsh says that indicates such a person has a sense of civic responsibility and perhaps a sense of duty, especially where they’ve seen something and stayed around long enough to call the police so there can be some fundamental fairness.

Capt. Robert Cedergren of the Bethel Police Department, a veteran of 23 years on the force, says he believes honesty is the best policy when it comes to eyewitness accounts.



“You don’t want them to exaggerate or give information that perhaps isn’t accurate.” He explains, “Don’t be afraid to say ‘No, I don’t remember’ or ‘I don’t recall this being what happened.’” Capt. Cedergren indicated that sometimes, crimes may not be solved because key witnesses don’t give the whole story or leave out parts.



Sgt. Carol Ogrinc of the New Canaan Police Department, says one of the most helpful ways to solve or prevent a crime is eyewitness testimony or personal knowledge about the situation, which has or may occur. Witnesses may not want to identify themselves, so the department uses an anonymous tip line, which allows witnesses to maintain confidentiality. “Even if it’s baseless or false it’s always better to be safe than sorry and we’ll be more than happy to check into it,” she said.

Police sometimes have difficulty getting anyone to say anything -- especially among young people who don’t want to ‘Fink’ on their friends. According to Sgt. Ogrinc, they don’t want a possible “stigma” to follow if they provide information to the police. Their fear is that among their peers, they might become someone who can’t be “trusted.”

Once police begin their investigation, every bit of information is analyzed, including if it is neg-

(Continued on page 5)

Retired Detective Says Murder Case “Haunts” Him -25 Years after Being Solved

By ANDY THIBAULT
Columnist

Vern Krill is a retired Shelton police detective who now teaches interrogation and report writing at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport. On Valentine's Day 1980, a 16-year-old Redding girl disappeared on the way to Joel Barlow High School. Cara Quinn was found dead, in Shelton, about two and a half weeks later. She had been raped repeatedly and shot in the back of the head and neck. She wore a Joel Barlow jacket inscribed inside with the word, cheerleader. "This case has haunted me for more than 25 years," Krill said. "It always will. It was a terrible waste of a young person's life."

Quinn, who had missed her bus, had walked toward her school and apparently hitchhiked a ride—that led her to her death. Her mother, who had terminal cancer, was at a doctor's appointment. The driver was 32-year-old Martin Shifflett, a one-man national crime wave who, at 6-feet, 1-inch and 210 pounds, was a formidable adversary. Shifflett, from Bridgeport, has a long rap sheet including abductions, rapes, burglaries and theft, from Connecticut to New York, Alabama and Ohio. He once stole valuable coins from the state library in Hartford—which were ultimately recovered by the Connecticut State Police.

"I remembered him," said retired State Police Lt. Charles McIntyre, who arrested Shifflett for the coin theft in 1974. "I had to tell [Cara's] mother about the death. It was the only time I ever told someone we would find the killer." McIntyre, then a trooper, was

"It was a terrible waste of a young person's life."

a member of the major crime squad, which joined the case and ultimately took over because the state police had greater resources than a local department. Shelton detectives continued to work the case in cooperation with the state police.

Shell casings found at the scene Shell casings found indicated a .38 caliber automatic pistol was used to kill Cara Quinn. A bullet was found in the ground underneath her head. Strangely, the casings were found to the left of the body. Most guns eject to the right because most people are right-handed. Detective Krill knew why the casings landed to the left. The murder weapon would be a Spanish Basque pistol. One such weapon was traced to Shifflett—Krill owned such a pistol, given to him by his father, a World War II veteran.

In the week after he raped and killed Cara Quinn, Shifflett also abducted and raped women in Fairfield and Bridgeport. After he killed Cara Quinn on Valentine's Day, he bought his wife two boxes of candy and a Valentine's card, using borrowed money. On July 22, 1980, Shelton and state police arrested Shifflett for murder. He admitted to the crime and was convicted in 1981. Shifflett is serving two consecutive life terms.

Krill uses this case, and others, while

teaching interrogation techniques. He earned an associate's degree in liberal arts at Housatonic before joining the Shelton police

in 1974. "I like empowering the young students," Krill said, "because professors empowered me to get my job."

This story originally appeared in the Connecticut Law Tribune. Andy Thibault is the author of "Law & Justice in Everyday Life" and is a private investigator. He is also an adjunct lecturer of English and a mentor in the master of fine arts writing program at Western Connecticut State University. Andy serves as a consulting editor for the literary journal "Connecticut Review." His website is www.andythibault.com and his blog is at <http://cooljustice.blogspot.com>. Contact him at a.thibault@TheJusticeJournal.com



FROM THE INTERNET:

This dangerous-looking shopping bag was given to purchasers of a book of crime stories by Belgium's most famous crime writer, Pieter Aspe.

Source: www.adsoftheworld.com/media/ambient/aspe_crime_stories and www.max.blog.az

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Information—

(Continued from page 4)

ative and does not lead anywhere. For example, if police have a suspect and the investigation is leaning toward that person and information comes in which seems to clear the suspect --the person could have been with someone else on that particular date and time --this must also be included in an investigating officer's report, according to Sgt. Ogrinc. "As much as you want to solve a crime and as much as it may be leaning toward them, you have to weigh everything and include everything in your investigation."

Some witnesses are only too happy to come forward. In a day where children are victimized by predators of all kinds, children staying safe in their schools or playgrounds is a top propriety among parents. "We did have an arrest of a person who was a registered sex offender ... who had stopped just to talk to girls and ended up following them," Sgt. Ogrinc said. We had the vehicle information out and the parents really came together and we had a lot of people helping out."

The best advice for anyone who witnesses a crime, according to Sgt. Ogrinc, is to call the police and not to get directly involved. "Be observant get a good look at the person or the vehicle and pass that information on to an employee or call 911 if you think it's a crime of a serious nature."

Some citizens want to become more involved

in how law enforcement works. Several departments, including those in Monroe, Shelton and Fairfield, feature a "Citizens Police Academy." Attendees are taught about law enforcement procedures and techniques. They may have the opportunity to ride along with an officer in a squad car. The New Canaan police department is working on forming an academy for interested citizens, according to Sgt. Ogrinc.

Another option for those interested in becoming more involved with law enforcement is to contact their local police department to ask about becoming a supernumerary police officer, also called a "police special." In Fairfield County, "specials" do not have the power of arrest and are not permitted to carry a firearm, Lt. Walsh explained. Depending on the department, "specials" may be granted powers of arrest or carry a sidearm. "They have all the training a full time officer does but they work on a part time basis," Sgt. Ogrinc said. "They have to undergo training and they can do traffic duty and they're sometimes more available when you have an accident scene where there's a lot of detours going on."

Citizens also have been helping police in recent times by using cell phones that have cameras built in. Such pictures have helped captured people trying to abduct children or who commit other criminal acts in public places.

Comments or questions?

Contact d.scales@thejusticejournal.com

Underage Drinking in Connecticut—

(Continued from page 1)

In the upscale Devenwood section of Farmington, Paul and Dawn Bracone were arrested after they sponsored a keg party -- that included dozens of teens -- in their 10,000-square-foot home. Paul J. Bracone, 50, was charged with felony risk of injury to a minor and delivery of alcohol to a minor. Although that could have resulted in 10 years in jail, last May he pleaded guilty to first-degree reckless endangerment. He was sentenced to a year in prison (suspended), two years' probation, alcohol abuse counseling. In addition, Bracone must pay \$1,000 in each year of his probation to fund underage drinking awareness education at Farmington High School.

A beer distributor has taken the lead in raising awareness of the costs of underage drinking. Dicello Distributors in Orange is the largest Anheuser-Busch distributor in Connecticut. Dicello has run an alcohol awareness program since 1993. It is one of a few distributors anywhere with a dedicated alcohol awareness person. Tony Lota has been at Dicello for 28 years --but now his only job there is as Alcohol Awareness Coordinator. According to Lota, underage drinking is also a parenting problem. "I try to talk mostly to parents --many are in denial."

Dicello offers retailers free "TIPS" training. "TIPS" (Training for Intervention ProcedureS) is a class that teaches servers, wait staff, bartenders, and storeowners how to identify, handle and remove underage drinkers. The retailers have a good incentive to have their staff trained --a 15-30% discount on their liability insurance. Although not mandated by law, Lota says he "gets an excellent response from retailers...We don't care about the size of the customer (retailer) we want to make this training easy to obtain."

Lota does not rest on his accomplishments. "I look for things to try to do." For example, he distributed 140 letters to the various public libraries in the area offering to let him put a "Family Talk" alcohol awareness bookmark in the library racks --so far, about 1800 bookmarks have been placed in libraries. Dicello pays for alcohol awareness speakers for high schools. The response to these speakers has been positive, and often students with problems approach the speaker for help. "Schools call me now for help. Before, I had to try to sell these programs." One school even told him they didn't have an alcohol problem --until they lost a student to drunk driving. They called Tony Lota soon after.

Dicello is the only alcohol-related company with membership in the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. They set up a booth at the Association's convention to assist in alcohol awareness programs. They also work with local police departments to encourage retailers to take the TIPS training --some of the chiefs have had officers hand-deliver a letter to the retailers in their towns to promote TIPS training.

State Liquor Control Commission Director John "Jack" Suchy says, "We get requests from local police and resident state troopers for compliance checks." A compliance check is done in coordination with local police and Liquor Control agents, utilizing underage volunteers to attempt to purchase alcohol from a retailer. From



July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006, 693 compliance checks were performed throughout Connecticut. When a compliance check is requested for a town, every store in town is checked. "This prevents the 'You're picking on me complaints,'" says Suchy. The unit has an agent go in with a 16-to-18 year old who shows valid (albeit underage) identification.

They never lie about their age...The majority [of retailers] want to do the right thing, but we have to identify and stop those who knowingly sell to underage persons."

Parents who think giving alcohol to teens is a

good idea are mistaken, says Vania Modesto-Lowe, M.D., MPH, an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University Of Connecticut School Of Medicine. She specializes in addiction psychiatry, and notes that in the United States teenage drinking is part of normal development, but cautions that early drinking may lead to other substance use and additional problems.

Something called "The gateway Theory," according to Dr. Modesto-Lowe, indicates that almost all teens who have used drugs started with alcohol. "The usual sequence is of substance experimentation is cigarettes, then alcohol, then cannabis, followed by harder drugs such as LSD, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin...teens who drink heavily and use other drugs may experience extreme difficulty in the psychological and intellectual challenges of adolescence."

Comments or questions?

Contact j.brewer@thejusticejournal.com

Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking Issues Progress Report

- Of the state's 169 towns, 49 have adopted a local ordinance which prohibits possession of alcohol on private property and also holds the "social host" legally responsible if alcohol is consumed or dispensed to minors.
- There are over 100 local community coalitions across the state working on issues related to underage drinking.
- In recent years, the Connecticut General Assembly has passed several alcohol related laws intended to curb underage drinking and related harms. These include: keg registration, a "zero tolerance" law which lowered the blood alcohol level to .02 for a DUI conviction for persons under 21, and a prohibition on drive-up alcohol sales.

Source: www.preventionworksct.org/drinking.html



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Connecticut Police Chiefs Association Mission Statement

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association is an organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of the residents of the State of Connecticut; to aiding other government bodies within and external to the State of Connecticut in the administration of justice, ensuring that all are treated equally before the law. To strive always to provide service to the public of the highest attainable quality by constantly searching for those methods that will keep Connecticut law enforcement in the forefront of public safety issues.



Mission Statement

The mission of THE JUSTICE JOURNAL is to serve our community by improving public safety. In collaboration with the police, other law enforcement agencies, and the judicial system, THE JUSTICE JOURNAL will inform the public about important issues of local and national security, and promote a more active involvement. We are committed to helping improve citizens' understanding of what constitutes a real threat and how to respond appropriately.

The goals of THE JUSTICE JOURNAL include opening the lines of communication between the public and law enforcement and to alleviate commonplace fears that citizens sometimes experience when dealing with those dedicated to protecting them. In addition, we seek to help the public make informed decisions about their safety and security of their families.

A monthly publication, THE JUSTICE JOURNAL explores topics such as identity theft, Internet scams, terrorism, street crimes and other threats to our civil liberties including controversial components of law enforcement. THE JUSTICE JOURNAL maintains that public security can be enhanced and improved when citizens and law enforcement agencies work together. THE JUSTICE JOURNAL, through intelligent and thoughtful debate provides an ideal forum that encourages active participation.

A Note Of Thanks From The Publisher

THE JUSTICE JOURNAL would like to extend its thanks to Purdue Pharma and Dichello Distributors Inc. for making this preview issue possible. Civic responsibility on the part of many corporations is often nothing more than a slogan, but these two companies have taken major, steps toward educating our community with their crime prevention programs. We salute them for the hard work each has devoted toward improving public safety.

RxPatrol sponsored by Purdue Pharma is the first and only program of its kind and has already produced very positive results. For more than 30 years Dichello Distributors Inc. has sponsored an Awareness Program that addresses a spectrum of social concerns young people and their families face today. Both companies have taken a leadership role in preventing crime. THE JUSTICE JOURNAL will be actively joining them in this pursuit. We would encourage you to visit their websites, www.rxpatriot.org and www.dichello.com, to find out what you can do.

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Homeland Security-

(Continued from page 1)

At \$100,000 to \$110,000 per drill, the exercises band communities together and test a region's emergency plans and equipment already in place. Several drills were planned for different locations throughout Connecticut, including the Northeast section of the state and the New Haven area. The city of Norwalk planned a large-scale training October exercise with emergency crews responding to a simulated explosive device - meaning a homemade bomb - on a morning

commuter train, similar to recent incidents in Spain and India.

While Bridgeport first responders planned to participate in the Norwalk drill, the city's emergency management director says such efforts are not enough to fully monitor and protect one of the state's largest municipalities. "Regionalization is good for small towns, but for larger communities - when you have target sites you should be receiving your fair share," said Scott Appleby, director of Bridgeport's Office of Emergency Management. "Because we are the largest city in

Connecticut and we do have 95 % of the potential targets listed by the Federal Department of Homeland Security, we do feel we're a threat."

Bridgeport's grant money from two federal homeland security and terrorism prevention programs has dwindled considerably since a nearly \$1 million disbursement in 2004. The city received about half of that, \$528,000, in 2005 and is scheduled to receive \$137,000 through the current allotment. "It's less than a dollar per resident - which is absurd," Appleby said. "You could base our less-than-a-dollar (funding) to a

fast food menu. If you look at a value menu, they're saying you're worth less than one of those."

Still, someone in Washington, obviously sees Bridgeport's harbor as a potentially vulnerable target given the continual funding the city has received through a separate Port Security Grant. "To be honest, we've gotten our fair share and we feel very comfortable with it," Appleby maintained. "We received \$3.5 million to safeguard our ports in 2004 and we'll be applying for 2006 (funds)."

Also comfortable with the overall doling out of security funds is Brookfield Police Chief Robin Montgomery, who heads the Fairfield County Police Chiefs Association. "Smaller (police) departments seem to be getting what they need in terms of protection, like gas masks," Montgomery said. "But the larger areas - Westport and others with shoreline and port issues - they're complaining."

Norwalk Police Chief Harry Rilling, who also serves as president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, agrees that larger cities in the U.S. are probably more vulnerable than his own, -but he's got a bigger gripe when it comes to talking about federal funding and security measures. "In 1997, the funding for law enforcement was almost \$1 billion more than we get today -and there were no homeland security grants back then... We've been asked to do the things we've traditionally done and now we have homeland security issues as well. So we're feeling less of a pinch from the homeland security grants and more of a pinch in the area of other grant funding that has been channeled into homeland security grants."

Chief Rilling adds that the law enforcement community is now responsible for the nation's safety - and that protection comes at a substantial cost in terms of equipment and training. "We're training our officers and purchasing basic equipment to respond to a WMD (weapons of mass destruction) incident and that equipment doesn't last forever," he maintained. "When equipment no longer is usable, we need to buy more." Specifically, he said he'd like to acquire more bomb-detecting equipment to better protect officers during a bomb threat or explosion situation and facilitate effective intelligence gathering for authorities.

Others cite 'Interoperability' as the key to protecting the state's residents. Norwalk Mayor Richard A. Moccia said he was counting on additional homeland security funding this year to continue his purchase of radios that operate on the same frequency. "I think it's basically communication, communication, communication," said Moccia. "We're on 450 (frequency) and Westport's on 800. We need combined dispatch with those other towns, but you sort of move at a snail's pace. I would like to have more (funding) and I did think Connecticut got short-changed."

New Britain Fire Chief Mark Carl likes the idea of interoperability to better achieve a certain "synergy" among emergency crews and brands the state's current approach of regional efforts as the most advantageous and effective. That being said, he acknowledges that it's a "slow process" and notes that with a finite amount of funding, "It's a challenge to be innovative."

For some, specifically Bridgeport with 139,000 residents, that challenge seems daunting. "When you have \$137,000 and you have to divide it between two hospitals, two community centers, our health department, our fire department, our ambulance, government administration, public facilities and our emergency operations center, it doesn't go far," Appleby said. "So it's going to be a struggle for us in Bridgeport."

Designing a Disaster Drill

By DAWN A. MICELI

The name of the drill says it all: Operation Ready Region - a simulated disaster designed to test and evaluate whether Connecticut's Region 1 area, which includes Norwalk, Fairfield, Greenwich and 11 other surrounding communities, is ready to handle an emergency situation or other crisis.

The scenario: A homemade bomb is detonated on a morning commuter train. State and municipal police receive multiple emergency 911 calls and initial reports cite considerable casualties, meaning patients have to be rerouted to area hospitals. Since the explosion occurs in proximity to an I-95 overpass, a major portion of the highway has to be shut down.

And that's just the beginning of a series of events involving dozens of emergency first-responder crews from around the state during



an October 28 regional training exercise. "I heard from some of the state people that there are 3,500 different tasks that you can be evaluated on in these exercises," said Norwalk Deputy Police Chief Mark Palmer. He is one of 10 members of a disaster drill design team coordinating the drill.

As the host city, Norwalk's police, fire and medical personnel will be first on the scene.

From there the call will go out for additional assistance. "Logistically, getting the job done is different from what's on paper," said Dep. Chief Palmer. "So, these state exercises help us address these issues."

"Communications is a big issue," according to Wayne Sandford, the deputy commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He noted that was one of the major findings from past training exercises, including a Congressionally-mandated one last year in New London.

NOTE: SUICIDE BOMBS - rather than chemical, biological or nuclear weapons are the most serious threat to the country, according to a survey of top American foreign policy and terrorism experts this past summer. The survey was conducted for Foreign Policy Magazine and the Center for American Progress, a Washington think-tank.

Photo courtesy:
CT. Dept. of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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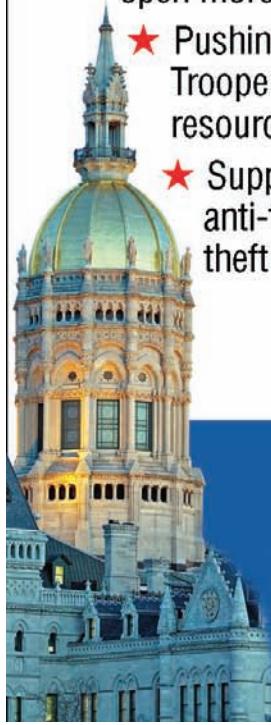
- ★ Fighting for proper screening and training of security work forces
- ★ Holding a forum on rail security so commuters learn to be more vigilant
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MISSING:



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ANDREA MICHELLE REYES

Case Type: Family Abduction
DOB: Nov 9, 1997
Missing Date: Oct 5, 1999
Age Now: 8
Missing City: NEW HAVEN
Missing State: CT
Missing Country: United States

Case Number: NCMC873211

Circumstances: Andrea's photo is shown age-progressed to 7 years. She was abducted by her non-custodial mother, Rosa Tenorio. A felony warrant for Custodial Interference was issued for the abductor on December 7, 1999. They may have traveled out of the state. Andrea has a birthmark in the middle of her forehead. She also has a lazy right eye and her right knee turns inward. The abductor may be using the alias first names Rosita or Guadalupe and the alias last name Minor. The abductor may have cut her hair or dyed her hair another color.

Age Progression

Sex: Female
Race: White/Hisp
Height: 3'0" (91 cm)
Weight: 30 lbs (14 kg)
Hair Color: Black
Eye Color: Brown



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Bridgeport Police Department 1-203-576-7671

What If...?



By
Capt. GARY MacNAMARA
Fairfield Police Department
Special to The Justice Journal



and future behavior.

Can these same words be effective for the public, whose jobs don't necessarily involve threatening situations?

- What if you were in a bank when it was being robbed?
- What if you were involved in a road rage incident?
- What if you encountered someone you believed to be a terrorist?
- What if you found out you were the victim of identity theft?
- What if you were on a plane being hijacked?
- What if you were in the World Trade Center when it was attacked?

After almost 19 years as a police officer, I still find myself playing the "what if...?" game. Well it's not really a game – it is more like a call to action. When you place "What if..." at the beginning of a question, it starts you thinking. It can make you dream – "What if I win the lottery?" It can make you worry – "What if I become sick... Who will support my family? It can also make you prepare – "What if we lose power or get stuck in a snowstorm?"

From the first day in the training academy, police officers are constantly reminded to prepare for the unknown. "What if the driver of the car you stop gets out and has a gun?" "What if the driver locks the doors and ignores you?" "What if you confront a burglar in a house?" "What if your handgun malfunctions?"

It becomes a powerful training tool that allows officers to prepare for an incident they have yet to encounter – and develop a plan to respond. This helps you react quicker with more resources since you have already rehearsed it.

Firefighters, the military, and even our world leaders use the method to prepare for some of the challenges they face. In fact, in the English language there are few words that when placed together have such a powerful effect. These are two words that, when spoken, written, heard, or read can change your thinking and your present

What if there were a publication that provided answers to these and other questions? What if it had a column entitled, "What If...?" where you would ask a question and informed professionals would provide the answers. Would you submit a question? What if you did, and received an answer that made you better prepared to handle a situation? What would happen? The "What if..." becomes an "if/then..." "If I were in a bank when it was robbed, then I would do the following... Or, "If involved in a road rage incident, then I would react this way..."

Whether it is terrorism, school violence, missing children, or simply how to conduct yourself when stopped by a police officer, the goal is to turn as many "What if?" inquiries into "If/then" recommendations, making the public better able to handle what concerns them.

THE JUSTICE JOURNAL's "WHAT IF...?" column starts right here and right now. What if you want to ask the first question? Send it to: g.macnamara@thejusticejournal.com

State Police Major Crime Squad Requests Help with "Cold Case"

"On May 18, 1985, the partially-dismembered body of an unknown African American female was discovered on fire in a wooded area off of the westbound shoulder of I-95, near the Sasco Creek overpass (near Exit 19) in Westport. The victim was wearing blue or black jeans, a heavy wool sweater, possibly white or off white in color. She also had a

plain gold chain around her neck. Anyone with information into the suspicious death of this woman, is asked to contact the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad, 800-575-6330 or 203-696-2561.

The primary responsibility of the Western District Major Crime Squad is to conduct all

major investigations that occur within the District, and to identify, collect, and preserve all items containing evidentiary value. The Western District Major Crime Squad will assist all Troops and local Police Departments with case investigations within the District by providing technical assistance. Western District Major Crime Squad personnel respond,

upon request, to assist all local Police Departments within the District with crime scene processing expertise. Western District Major Crime Squad personnel routinely work in conjunction with State and Federal law enforcement agencies," according to the Squad's website:/www.ct.gov/dps/cwp/view.asp?a=2153 &q=294410

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The Justice Journal Law Enforcement PROfile:

Sgt. Vance manages the media

By PAMELA FALCIGNO
Staff Reporter

 He has one of the most often seen faces on Connecticut television newscasts. His voice is a familiar one in radio newscasts. He is widely quoted in the newspapers. Meet Master Sergeant J. Paul Vance, Commanding Officer, the State Police spokesman for Media Relations and Public Information, in the Department of Public Safety. His primary role is to keep the public informed about state police activity through communication with the media.

"I had to change gears and go from being a trooper at an accident scene to regaining composure and standing before the bank of cameras trying to articulate what took place.

"It's hard to do. Emotions can never get involved in what you are saying. You delay in making a statement until you are prepared to do it 'upstairs.'"

-Sgt. J. Paul Vance, when asked to describe one of his toughest situations.

From his office at headquarters in Middletown, Sgt. Vance has daily interaction with reporters and helps them to get answers to their questions. "That is our focus," says Sgt. Vance. The job can also take him to the scene of a crime anywhere in the state, at any time, to gather information and talk to the media.

"So many times, they (the media) will say, 'Sgt. Vance says...' -I almost feel embarrassed. It's not me. It's me talking about the men and women doing their work... every single day, all day and all night. It just so happens I am the 'talking head'. It's my voice, it's my word, but I'm speaking for the agency...The 'talking head' part is easy...The other part is the actual authoring of the press release with the facts and circumstances in somewhat of a chronological and understandable order. That gets tricky sometimes."

There are times when the PIO takes care not to release too much information that could potentially impede an investigation. "We may only be able to tell you a certain portion of what is going on," says Sgt. Vance, "and whether there is any cause for concern." Other times, police investigations hit a brick wall and the public's help is needed.

"We are constantly telling the public we need their help. We show photos, give out car descriptions or even attempt to solicit what someone saw or heard at the time or in the area of an incident," says Sgt. Vance. "This is an important part of an investigation." One way to help, says Sgt. Vance is to "contact state or local police or call an officer or trooper that one feels comfortable with, and provide the information...we in law enforcement would always try to keep whatever information we receive confidential."

As a state police officer for over 30 years,



Sgt. Vance is interviewed by WFSB-TV Reporter Dan Kain.

including time as a resident trooper, his interaction with events covered by the media gave him the experience needed when asked to take on his demanding duties. Col. Edward Lynch, deputy commissioner of the Division of State Police, says that Sgt. Vance is the "face" of state police activity and brings "enthusiasm, loyalty and maturity" to the role. "We have solved numerous crimes through his efforts in disseminating information to the media."

In addition to Sgt. Vance, Trooper Donna Tadiello and Trooper William Tate, conduct some public relations activities and do media interviews as part of the team. "We try to have one spokesperson for consistency and continuity of information, but I do not do it all," says Sgt. Vance.

Connecticut is fortunate to have good coverage of law enforcement activities on broadcast stations and in newspapers across the state, and notes that the agency is "plugged into them all." He meets annually with local news directors and editors to review ways to improve communication and learn from one another. "We want to be on a good working relationship -we need the press as much as they need us."

FOX 61 News Director Bob Rockstroh, who has worked in cities from coast-to-coast, says his news team has found Sgt. Vance to be the "consummate professional" and "very accessible...He understands our role, and if he doesn't have the information, he will try to find out." Recently, Sgt. Vance has begun to disseminate press releases through the Department of Public Safety's web site. "The press has deadlines and we recognize these deadlines...and we fight to provide timely and accurate information."

Channel 3 WFSB Eyewitness News New

scene to regaining composure and standing before the bank of cameras trying to articulate what took place. It's hard to do. Emotions can never get involved in what you are saying. You delay in making a statement until you are prepared to do it 'upstairs.'

Due to having many specialty departments within the state police, such as the forensics lab, bomb squad, computer crime and others departments, Sgt. Vance says he has to know at least a little about a lot -and at times it can be challenging. The biggest advantage he says he has as spokesman, is working daily with both state and local police.

"Pride really shows itself when you get a trooper that has gone out and done a great job, or a specialized unit that has gone out and solved a difficult case...They put their blood sweat and tears into it and I get to talk about it to the public. I find that tremendous - very rewarding...Ninety five percent of the time I am speaking about what the men and women in this agency do every single day...I do it with a great deal of pride because I really believe that we are a very professional state agency."

One of the most dramatic changes Sgt. Vance has seen in his career is what he calls is the dissolving of the "old-fashioned law enforcement barrier." He says he feels his office has been very successful in this regard and notes that teachers will call and ask to have a trooper speak to their class. "People who used to look at troopers and cringe now look at troopers as people." As part of law enforcement, reaching the community with a message of public safety and crime prevention is a big part of the job. Whether making presentations at State Fairs, or speaking to senior groups or other organizations around the state, "It is import that we continue to get the message of public safety out there...This agency does so much to prevent crime. That's really what we are all about."

Sgt. Vance is a husband, father and grandfather. When it comes to vacation time with the family, he says the cell phone/pager stays behind. There rest of the time, he is pretty much "on call." When he is called and has to go in, as he puts it, "We suck it up and get the work done...It is a "great job."

*Comments or questions?
Contact: p.falcigno@thejusticejournal.com*



Sgt. Vance "meets the press" in an on-location news conference.

U.S. Attorney Kevin J. O'Connor Leads Anti-Terrorism Efforts in CT

(Courtesy: Department of Justice, District of Connecticut)

United States Attorney Kevin J. O'Connor heads Connecticut's Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council (ATAC). John A. Danaher III, who served as United States Attorney at the time of the September 11th attacks, currently serves as the Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council Coordinator. The ATAC currently consists of state, federal and local representatives from 67 agencies. The ATAC meets regularly to share information, coordinate investigative and prosecutorial strategies and train law enforcement and other personnel.

The ATAC has five goals:

1. Prevent, disrupt and defeat terrorist operations before they occur.

2. Develop and implement the full range of resources available to investigate terrorist incidents, bringing the perpetrators to justice.

3. Vigorously prosecute those who have committed, or intend to commit, terrorist acts in the United States.

4. Protect critical infrastructure.

5. Deter threat and hoax events that drain law enforcement and other first-responder resources.

Preventing terrorist acts requires that we be both diligent and proactive in identifying, incapacitating, and punishing those groups and individuals who would employ violence to impose their will on public policy issues. Members of the public are invaluable resources in our efforts to safeguard our citizens and their property. Rest assured that the law enforcement community is doing its best to keep us safe. You can help by offering your full support and cooperation should your assistance be needed in an interview, request for documentation, or request for information. You can also help by:

Learning the normal routines of your neighborhoods, community and workplace. Understanding these routines will help you spot anything out of place.

Observing your surroundings. Whether traveling, at work or at home be on the lookout for suspicious packages, luggage or mail abandoned in a crowded place like an office building, an airport, a school, or a shopping center.

Listening carefully. If you hear or know of someone who has bragged or talked about plans to harm citizens in violent attacks or who claims membership in a terrorist organization, take it seriously and report it to law enforcement immediately.

Connecticut has always enjoyed an effective working relationship among various federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. The effectiveness of those relationships, and of the new ATAC, was put to the test in November 2001 when Ms. Otilie Lundgren, a resident of Oxford, Connecticut, contracted inhalation anthrax and died. The investigation of this tragic incident has been fully supported by all entities involved and is continuing.

Although the State of Connecticut is the third smallest state in the union, it is the home of many major defense contractors, including Pratt & Whitney Aircraft, Sikorsky Aircraft, and ElectricBoat. In addition, the United States Navy maintains a submarine base in Groton, Connecticut. There are twenty-five public airports in Connecticut, two of which offer commercial service, including Bradley International Airport, which also serves the Greater Springfield, Massachusetts area from Windsor Locks. There are deep-water ports at Bridgeport, New Haven and New London, as well as two nuclear power generating stations in Connecticut,



United States Attorney
Kevin J. O'Connor

one of which has been deactivated.

Terrorism, in the broadest sense, is politically, religiously, or socially motivated violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by groups or individuals. This definition includes violence directed at governmental entities as well as at private citizens, and violence directed at people and property, all for the purpose of changing public policy.

The District of Connecticut has adopted a multi-pronged approach in its anti-terrorism effort. The investigation and prosecution of terrorist offenses, including fundraising in support of terrorist organizations, is our highest priority. In order to

convey the seriousness of that commitment, and to achieve a deterrent effect, we are committed to prosecuting terrorist hoax cases aggressively and rapidly. We also ramped up the prosecution of passport fraud and theft of identity cases, adding to the public perception that crimes in those areas would not be tolerated in Connecticut. We sought to improve relations with the Islamic community in Connecticut. Shortly after 9/11, the Special Agent in Charge of the FBI and the United States Attorney met with Imams from mosques around Connecticut, assuring them of our willingness to prosecute, aggressively, any crimes committed against their followers on the basis of religious belief or ethnic heritage. We also sponsored a one-day training session aimed at sensitizing law enforcement personnel to the concerns of the Arab-American community.

We have embarked on many training programs for our ATAC. The first ATAC training session for law enforcement officers was held on January 15,

2002. Since then, the following full-day or longer training sessions have been completed for law enforcement officers, fire fighters, emergency planning directors, Public Health professionals, medical first responders and numerous others from the private and public sector who serve as our first line of defense against terrorism related crimes.

The United States Attorney's Office has developed several extensive Email distribution lists and since 2002 has used those lists to effectively distribute a wide variety of useful intelligence and training-related information on a daily basis. In addition, our Intelligence Research Specialist maintains a computer-based library of essential Anti-Terrorism information available for distribution upon request to any ATAC member. List members include all of the representative agencies of the ATAC, other law enforcement, public health, and first-responder officials and members of the corporate security community.

The District of Connecticut ATAC meets quarterly to share intelligence and investigative information, to discuss relevant projects and to conduct specific training. A special fund was created by the Department of Justice to help fund interagency communication, training and intelligence coordination. We are using that fund to achieve those objectives. We have recently expanded our ATAC membership to reach a more geographically diverse area, including all of the major population centers of the state.

We work very closely with the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force ("JTTF"), which has been in existence at the New Haven FBI office for five years. We also work closely with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security. We direct your attention to their websites, found in our links section (<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ct/links.html>), for further details regarding the excellent services being provided to our state by the FBI's JTTF and the Connecticut State Police.

CT Chief State's Attorney's Office Seeks Medicaid Fraud Information

(Courtesy: Division of Criminal Justice)

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit of the Chief State's Attorney's office protects the State of Connecticut and its taxpayers by investigating and prosecuting fraud committed by those health care professionals and facilities who provide services paid for by Medicaid, the government health insurance program for lower income people.

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit was established in 1978 as a result of federal legislation authorizing the states to investigate and prosecute fraud and abuse in Medicaid. Providers can include physicians (medical

doctors), dentists, nursing or convalescent homes, medical equipment supply companies, taxi and other transportation companies, or anyone else who bills the Connecticut Medicaid program for health care services provided to a Medicaid recipient.

Some examples of the types of fraud that can take place include:

- Billing for treatment, medical procedures or equipment that is not actually performed or provided. Double billing, which means billing both the Medicaid program and the recipient or his or her private insurance for the same service. Billing for services that are

not medically required.

- Filling a prescription with a generic drug while billing Medicaid for the higher priced brand-name drug.

- Kickbacks, or giving or accepting something in return for medical services.

- "Up-coding," which is billing Medicaid for a more expensive procedure or service than was actually performed or provided.

The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit employs a professional staff of criminal investigators, auditors, and prosecutors experienced in financial investigations. In addition to investigating and prosecuting fraud by those who

provide health care services, the unit investigates cases of abuse of patients who reside in facilities that receive Medicaid funding. The Unit covers all facilities and all providers who receive Medicaid funding. It does not matter if the victim is on Medicaid -- as long as the facility gets Medicaid.

To contact the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit:

Office of the Chief State's Attorney
300 Corporate Place
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Phone: (860) 258-5986
Fax: (860) 258-5838

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PAY ATTENTION

Look for Cpt. Gary MacNamara's monthly column
"What If....?"

You Can Make a Difference:

Key to Citizen Involvement in Law Enforcement Is Communicating Effectively with Local Police



By JOSE L. LOPEZ Sr.
Deputy Chief,
Hartford Police Department
Special to The Justice Journal

A door being kicked off its hinges during a burglary, or our youth being shot in the street, leave behind not only victims—they leave people who heard, people who saw and people who have information about it. With all the avenues of communication provided by the police, you can make a difference in your community—and no one else in your neighborhood needs to know.

Become a partner with your police department and make a difference in the quality of life in your community by insuring that the police become aware of what is happening in your neighborhood. This can occur through a person-to-person relationship with the police or in a confidential cooperation with the police. If the criminals know that the community is not going to stand by idly as they continue their activity, they would leave in search of a neighborhood that did not care. Make sure that criminals feel uninvited in your community by keeping the police fully informed.

Although the police patrol all neighborhoods, they cannot be expected to know every-

thing that happens in each block. It is the residents of these neighborhoods who are fully aware of what goes on. Passing this information to the police allows the police officers to use their training and experience to address the crime. Many believe that what goes on in their neighborhood is none of their (the police) business. The reality is that if the criminal activity has gotten close enough for them to be aware of it then it is their business. It is but a matter of time before they are victimized in some way. The form of the victimization could be direct where they are actually the victims, or indirectly with a family member or a friend being the victim.

This is not to say that one should be a spy for the police in their neighborhood or take matters into their own hands, but if they have knowledge of criminal activity this information should be forwarded to the police for proper investigation. Such activity would include, but would not be limited to, drug dealing, sale of stolen property, vandalism, firearms possession, and crimes against children.

There are many ways to filter information about criminal activity in your community. The easiest way is to talk to a Police Officer. In your daily activity stop and talk to the police officer working in your neighborhood. This could be the area police cruiser or the beat officer in your

neighborhood. It could also be the resource officer in your children's school. Attend a community meeting where the police will be in attendance or join a block watch program. If there is no block watch program, then start one. Finding a police officer who you could get to know and subsequently confide in is not a difficult task. Most police departments have web sites that identify officers in your community.

One reason some people give for not conveying information to the police has been more of an urban legend where all calls are believed to be identifiable. This legend was strong even before the Caller ID system was introduced. The reality is that in most police departments the only identifiable calls received are those made to the 911 emergency lines—in these cases the emergency is so important that it requires an immediate response in order to save lives and if the caller is unable to give their location a car can still be dispatched from the Caller ID. All other calls made through the main number are normally not identifiable and the caller can give or leave a confidential message without fear that their address will be traced. Your local police department can tell you if they identify all the calls that they receive.

In situations where the events are unfolding, you can instruct the dispatcher not to identify

you or not send an officer to your home. You can leave a callback number in the event that more information is needed. If your request is violated a citizen complaint should be made in order to identify and discipline the individual who failed to honor your request.

Throughout my career, I have received a lot of information through my telephone extension without knowing the identity of the caller. In some instances, these callers would give a code name so that I would know that it was the same caller and keep track of the validity of their information. Much of the information I received led to fruitful investigations.

Citizens may also send their information via the U.S. Postal System. These letters can be addressed to your local police department. Contact with the police can even be made via the Internet through e-mail. Your message will receive a response. All information obtained is reviewed and investigated. To further help in conveying information to the police, most departments have special tip lines where you can leave confidential information on a recorder or be directed to a person. A caller does not need to leave their name and can still leave information about the suspects and locations of criminal activity.

(See "Communication" on page 13)

STAY ALERT

Read Grant Stinchfield's
"Scam of the Month"

THE JUSTICE JOURNAL
FIGHTING CRIME IN CONNECTICUT

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MISSING:

Non-Family Abduction

BIANCA LEBRON



DOB: Jun 26, 1991
Missing: Nov 7, 2001
Age Now: 15
Sex: Female
Race: White/Hispanic
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Hazel
Height: 4'11" (150 cm)
Weight: 115 lbs (52 kg)
Missing From:
BRIDGEPORT
CONNECTICUT

Age Progressed



Bianca's photo is shown age-progressed to 14 years. She was last seen at school on November 7, 2001. Bianca may have gotten into a dark colored vehicle with tinted windows, driven by an adult male. She has a birthmark on her forehead.

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ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD
CONTACT
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)

Bridgeport Police Department 1-203-576-7671

Communication—

(Continued from page 12)

Ideally, information should be descriptive. Even with the exact location or person's name, it is good to give a detailed description. Vehicle license plate numbers and names of associates are extremely valuable when incorporated with the information being given. The fact is that the police do not possess or utilize ESP in order to curb crime, identify suspects or solve their cases. They depend on forensics, witnesses, confessions, and citizen information.

Communication between citizens and the police is essential for the reduction of crime and should not be difficult. There are many excuses given as to why some citizens will not report criminal activity to the police. Some are afraid to be looked upon as a squealer, cheese-eater, tattletale or rat—but these are labels created by those who do wrong things and who do not want to be detected. This is seen in the emergence of the "Don't Snitch" t-shirts that are worn by both kids and adults.

Some people may believe that they will be exposed if they give information to the police and then will be harmed. This is not the case. Information is received by the police every day and is kept confidential. In the few occasions that I know of where a witness was harmed, their fate was a result of their failure to take the advice of the police. They chose to renew contact with the offender. These individuals were not citizens giving information—they were co-conspirators and were involved in the criminal activity that they reported.

In a homicide investigation I was involved with, the victim was a high-ranking gang member and his assailant was from a dangerous rival

gang. There was very little to go on in this case and it would have gone unsolved if it had not been for a citizen in the neighborhood who had heard the gunshot and had witnessed the assailant fleeing. She came forward, gave a statement as to her observation and identified the assailant. This helped the detectives to obtain timely evidence and to apply for a warrant.

The citizen was taken out of state and placed in a witness protection program. The citizen then appeared to do everything to ensure that everyone would know that she was the witness to this gang murder. She even returned to the same block to live, refusing any other protection. At the time, because of her actions, it became common knowledge among the gangs that she

had supplied the information. Subsequently the assailant was captured, tried and convicted. Even though she had not hidden herself away, she did not experience any negative actions or threats due to her cooperation with the police.

*Comments or questions?
Contact comments@thejusticejournal.com*



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A 5-year Cancer Survivor in Blue

Police Officer Kelly Turner "Protects and Serves" By Founding and Heading "The CHAIN Fund"

By TEALE CALIENDO
Staff Reporter

"I found myself running through the halls, like a child, shouting 'Cancer! Cancer!' -that's how New Haven Police Officer Kelly Turner recalls her reaction when her doctor, with no forewarning, revealed on the phone, 'It's cancer.'

Even though she has a strong belief system, Officer Turner says she reacted as any human being might. "I was just blown away. I couldn't sleep. I'm trying to process in my mind, 'Where did I get this? Where was I? What type of atmosphere was I in?' After all there was no history of breast cancer in my family," she said. And, she was young, just 36...didn't drink...didn't smoke.

Officer Turner was a single mother with a teen-age boy when she was diagnosed with stage-three cancer. As bad as things were for her, she knew she could rely on a strong support system -family, friends, and her co-workers on the police force. She'd experienced that same support in the field, when an officer was down, and now she was experiencing it in dealing with her cancer.

The first awareness there might be a problem during a conference in Philadelphia. In the shower one morning, Officer Turner felt a lump in her left breast. The women traveling with her, most were a few years older, allayed any fears. They told her that it was probably a calcium deposit that a lot of women get. "I never considered cancer," she said.

An ultra sound examination showed three lumps -two smaller ones hidden behind the first. The subsequent biopsy was positive. Worse yet, it turned out to be a rapidly growing cancer that doubled the size of her breast within a week.

"I can't even describe what it's like to have your life just tossed, and have no clue how its going to end -if its going to end-What you're going to do in the meantime and how you're going to pull it together. I had 'pity parties' within myself," she admitted.

Although she continued getting her regular pay, Officer Kelly usually worked overtime to make ends meet. That was now out of the question. So, her fellow officers went to work by holding a motorcycle benefit to raise money to help take care of her bills.

Shortly after the fundraiser, Officer Turner was visiting her doctor and ran into a childhood friend who also was undergoing cancer treatment. "She was a professional person (who was) losing her house. Her kids were getting kicked out of private schools...that whole scenario. Here I am -just three days ago I had a wonderful benefit. My job was very lenient allowing me to go into the sick bank - most people don't have a sick bank. Here I'm on one side of the fence having so much support -there should be more people on this side of the fence with me, not having to worry, than be on the side of the fence that she's on."

Officer Turner began looking for resources



WTNH-TV Anchor Keith Kountz and NHPD Officer Kelly Turner at a CHAIN fundraising event.

to help her friend, didn't find any. She did discover a rather startling statistic: One in four Americans who can't work because of a life-threatening illness do not have enough money to pay their bills for more than three months.

Speaking from experience, Officer Turner said it's bad enough to be sick and forced into making life-altering decisions about your treatment, but you shouldn't have to deal with worrying over whether you'll be able to pay the rent and utilities. She wondered what it would take to start a fund to provide the support for others that her colleagues provided for her.

That's why Officer Turner turned founded The CHAIN Fund. CHAIN stands for Compassionate Hands Assisting Interim Needs. Its mission is to take some of the monetary bur-

den off cancer patients so they can focus on getting well.

In its first five years, CHAIN helped 11 Connecticut families cope with cancer and deal with the everyday challenges of survival. She also acts as CHAIN's sole counselor and talks with dozens of cancer patients a month. "I get the calls. I take the calls personally, and when they're explaining to me what they are going through, I understand."

CHAIN was featured on national television earlier this year. That telecast helped spread the word about CHAIN. Currently Kelly is in talks with people in Fairfield County interested in extending CHAIN into the area. Phyllis Steinbrecher of Westport said there is a dire need for this kind of service. "Tons of money goes into research...but nothing to help meet the telephone bill...to help meet the human side (of the patient) -not just the medical side."

The ultimate dream for Officer Turner is to take CHAIN nationwide, with a launch on the Oprah Winfrey Show. "Even now I shock myself as to what I have done...I truly believe that I had to suffer (through cancer) so I could give birth to this organization to help others." CHAIN has four fundraisers annually. A black tie "Celebration of Life Dinner" was set for November 11 at the Aqua Turf in Plantsville, with WTNH-TV anchor Keith Kountz returning as master of ceremonies.

Officer Turner views cancer as something

(See "Survivor" on page 15)

"When kids ask me to buy alcohol, I just hook 'em up. I don't think what happens to them afterwards is my problem."

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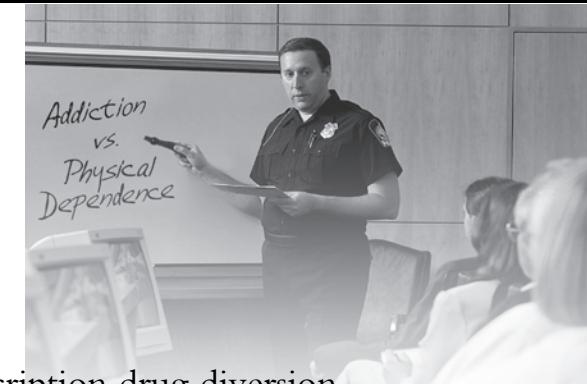
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Survivor—

(Continued from page 14)

that transformed her. "I was an introvert. It has transformed my life...there's just a lot of things that I believe were dormant in me that cancer brought to the surface. It made me draw on talents and gifts that I had, but I didn't know I had. It forced me to be more than what I was. I know this is strange but I was talking to another cancer patient and he started to say something and, I kid you not, before he said it I already knew what he was getting ready to say. Even though cancer is devastating as it is, and as deadly as it is, it's a good thing that it happened because it really changed my life for the better. I think The CHAIN Fund was part of my destiny."

After undergoing chemo-therapy and surgery, Officer Turner has passed the five-year milestone in her illness and is cancer free. "I made it," she said with a beaming smile. "I'm good." The milestone was marked by the fifth annual police motorcycle ride in her honor. There was also a quiet celebration her new husband -she married last spring and is now Mrs. Willie Turner-Bellamy -and her family and friends.

"I think the nature of a police officer is to serve and protect...I want to give back and serve somebody else they way I was served...especially those who can't do for themselves,"

She added, "I made it," -beaming a smile - "I'm good."

For more information contact:
www.thechainfund.org

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WANTED:



The following subject, Ester LeClair, is wanted by the Fairfield Police for Larceny 1st Degree, Issuing Bad Checks and other Contractor Fraud charges. In addition, LeClair has warrants for Larceny 1st Degree and Failure to Appear from other jurisdictions in Connecticut. LeClair is believed to be in Sao Paulo Brazil.

ESTER LECLAIR

Date of Birth: 02/10/1962
 White (Hispanic) Female
 Height: 5'4" Weight: 130 lbs.
 Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown (usually in a ponytail)

FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT DETECTIVE DIVISION

100 Reef. Rd., Fairfield, CT
 203-254-4840
 Fax: 203-254-4885
 Email: kdalling@town.fairfield.ct.us



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