

SPIRIT ONLINE

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VA Connecticut Healthcare System

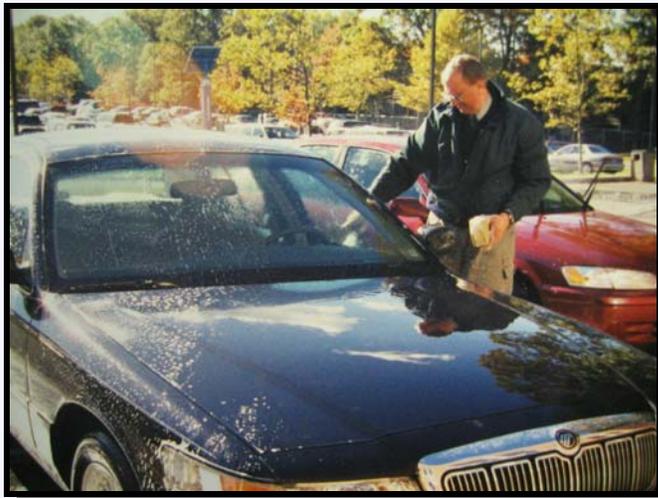
November 5, 2003

CFC KICK-OFF

Cars line up to shine...

October 24 was a chilly day but that didn't stop our enterprising employees who volunteered to wash cars at a fundraiser for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) at the West Haven campus.

Dirty cars lined up at the laundry building for the wash and shine which cost a mere \$5 for the basic treatment. A \$10 "Special" would get you a wash and an interior cleaning. The basic and special washes were a great value for a great cause. The car wash raised more than \$400. The money will be donated through CFC to a charity for veterans. A thank you goes to all who brought their cars to the wash and a special thank you goes to the volunteers who did the hard work of washing, drying, detailing and vacuuming.



Roger Johnson, VA Connecticut director, washes one of many cars that lined up for the CFC fundraiser on Oct. 24.

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Events


**Veterans Day
Ceremony
West Haven
Nov. 7**

**Art from the Heart
Branford, CT
Nov. 7**

**FEHB Open Season
Health Fair**

For more information on these and other events please see *Good Morning VA Connecticut*.

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CFC CAR WASH...



2nd Annual Canteen Pumpkin Carving Contest

The 2nd Annual Canteen Pumpkin Carving Contest was held Halloween in the staff dining room at the West Haven campus. The judges, **Melissa Alpert**, director's office and **Patty Minicucci**, canteen service, had the unenviable task of selecting the prize winning pumpkins. They were all great! The winners received canteen gift certificates.



First Place
Tina Agentis



Second Place
Judy Molstre



Third Place
John Kamorowski



Third Place (tie)
Fran Evers

EXECUTIVE SUMMIT:

Developing Healthcare Excellence for the Future

By Ed Kobylanski

Passion and enthusiasm were the climate at the VA Connecticut Healthcare System Executive Summit held Oct. 29-31 in Old Saybrook.

“Developing Healthcare Excellence for the Future” was the summit theme as Roger Johnson, director, welcomed over 50 participants representing clinical, research, education, fiscal, human resources/staff development and local management components from the healthcare system. In addition, representatives from the three bargaining units actively participated as well. The goal of the summit was to develop a draft strategic plan for VA Connecticut for the years 2004-2009.

During opening remarks the director empowered the participants to be creative in charting the strategic plan for VA Connecticut. Group leaders were tasked to facilitate their groups to “think out of the box” in defining excellence and how to measure excellence for each of the listed areas:

Group Leaders	Area
Dr. Gary Desir, Acting Chief of Medicine	Clinical
Dr. Richard Marottoli, Service Line Manager Geriatrics & Extended Care	Education
Dr. Michael Sernyak, Service Line Manager Mental Health & Behavioral Sciences	Research
Mark Bain, Chief Human Resources Management Service	Human Resources & Staff Development
Penny Schuckers, Acting Service Line Manager Sensory & Physical Rehabilitation	Finance & Business

Special guests included Susan MacKenzie, Ph.D., VISN 1 Chief operating officer, Susan Dyrenforth, Ph.D., and staff from the VHA National Center for Organization Development (NOCD), as well as Rick Randle, director of the VA Regional Office Hartford who summarized the summit activities.

Overall summit participants felt passion and enthusiasm for who we are and what VA Connecticut does in serving veterans, our employees and the community. The draft strategic plan will be communicated to employee in various forums to include town meetings, healthcare system publications and the VA Connecticut intranet web site as the plans develop.



The Director's All-Employee Forums will be held on the following dates:

West Haven

Donaldson Education Center

Nov. 19

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.

3 - 4 p.m.

7 - 8 p.m.

Nov. 20

12 - 1 a.m.

Newington Campus

Blue Room

Nov. 19

Noon - 1 p.m.

1 - 2 p.m.

in the
NEWS



Dr. Sheldon Campbell, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service was the recipient of the Bohmfalk Teaching Award of the Yale University School of Medicine for the 2002-2003 academic year. This outstanding teaching award is voted upon by the students themselves for the second year clinical sciences curriculum. Dr. Campbell is course director of the medical school's clinical microbiology course.

Janice Carlow, administrative officer, Laboratory Service, Newington campus, and **Newington Campus Laboratory Staff** were recognized for an excellent job in preparing for the College of American Pathologist (CAP) inspection conducted on Oct. 1, 2003. Two years ago the Newington laboratory had zero deficiencies and this year also received zero deficiencies.

On Nov. 3rd, the staff of the Newington Mental Hygiene Clinic and Substance Abuse Clinic held their 3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast. The food was prepared and served by the staff to approximately 200 veterans in the Red, White and Blue Rooms. The breakfast was funded by the staff and Voluntary Service.

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