

# Pike County Correctional Facility

Spring/Summer 2011



COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



Spring and Summer Greetings from the desk of Warden Craig A. Lowe...

Far too often I witness way too many individuals that live for the moment and forget to prepare for the future. I perceive a consistent expectation that others will provide for them and their families which becomes a long term requirement rather than temporary assistance. We must continue to educate our “captive audience”, prepare them for the future and hold them accountable for their actions.

It is my own belief that when people are allowed to merely exist and do not work hard and pursue excellence, then we all languish in mediocrity. Sub-standard performance combined with a lack of guidance, support or training will only culminate with a dependent society that clearly has no direction, desire to work or a path to follow.

When we are held accountable and pushed to step out of our comfort zone to face these issues that we fear most we become a capable well rounded individual. When our fears subside and we accept constructive criticism we soon realize that we are capable of achieving greatness.

Within the Pike County Correctional Facility staff, volunteers and offenders are all held to the highest standards. The end result is a team of dedicated Correctional Professionals, an army of community volunteers, and offenders that for the most part continue to follow a positive path toward re-entry.

To further bolster my personal belief and provide another example of our success, I am proud to announce that during our most recent annual Immigration inspection, we achieved a “Superior Rating.” We are the only facility in the country to achieve this distinction. Now, I hope you all understand why we all do the things we do each and every day. In order to achieve greatness it takes hard work, accountability and dedication to the mission. Maintaining this standard is what we have proven to be capable of year after year, a true sign of a champion.

In closing, I want all of you to reflect back on what you have just read, “*The Pike County Correctional Facility is the only facility in the country to achieve this distinction.*”

Kudos to our entire team.

## **PRISON BOARD**

### **Prison Board President**

Richard A. Caridi

### **Commissioners**

Richard A. Caridi  
Kathy Hummel  
Karl A. Wagner

### **President Judge**

Joseph F. Kameen

### **District Attorney**

Raymond Tonkin

### **Pike County Sheriff**

Phillip Bueki

### **Pike County Solicitor**

Tom Farley

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## *Reflections from the office of* **Assistant Warden Robert McLaughlin**

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For the Spring/Summer newsletter I'd like to update you all on the status of the Facility Programs Department and the continuing role of our robust roster of community volunteers.

As you know, our beloved Programs Director Irene Doolittle retired last fall, and Treatment Counselor Eileen Blair completed her Military obligation, and subsequently moved away from the area permanently. This left some pretty big shoes to fill, and we're happy to report that we've made some outstanding additions to the Programs team which will enable us to continue to provide exceptional counseling and treatment services to the offenders we house. Many of our volunteers have already met our newest Treatment Counselors Terry Mooney and Mary Keller who are now performing their duties alongside Treatment Counselor Erica Zaleck and Classification Coordinator Elissa Wenzel. I am pleased to convey that our talented Programs team arrives each day and performs their responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication to the facility mission. These skilled Correctional Professionals, in conjunction with our community volunteers, endeavor to provide extensive counseling, educational and rehabilitative programs which enable our offenders to succeed upon release from incarceration.

Remember that our goal and the usual result of these considerable efforts is that offenders return to the community successfully, obtain gainful employment, and become productive citizens. They overcome their issues and addictions and don't revisit the criminal behavior that resulted in their incarceration. They are no longer burdensome upon the correctional system by returning as recidivists. So in closing, as we proceed and continue to pursue our mission, I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe summer season and thank you very much for your ongoing efforts!



## NEW VOLUNTEERS AND NEW PROGRAMS

“ATTITUDE IS A  
LITTLE THING  
THAT MAKES A  
BIG  
DIFFERENCE”

Recently, a new program was initiated for male inmates entitled “Attitude.” The focus of the program is to understand the importance of our attitude, and the importance of being positive. Mrs. Mary Ann Ruby, who has a Masters Degree in Exercise Physiology From Long Island University and a Masters Degree in Education from Banks Street College, has joined our roster of volunteers to facilitate the new “Attitude” program. She is a Clinical Exercise Specialist certified by the American College of Sports Medicine, and has over 20 years experience in the fitness industry as a personal trainer, group exercise leader and Stott Pilates instructor. Mrs. Ruby has dedicated her life to behavioral and attitude awareness as well as to her own personal growth. She brings to this program her philosophy that “lifestyle changes are absolutely possible when you have help, a positive outlook and sense of humor.”



Ms. Kara Dillow  
preparing for her class.

### Pilates at Pike

Female inmates at our facility are now enjoying a Pilates exercise program, facilitated by Kara Dillow who has been practicing classical Pilates mat work since 2002, when she trained with Marianne Adams at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. Kara has been teaching since 2005. She first became a Power Pilates instructor of Beginner and Intermediate mat, and recently completed the comprehensive Power Pilates teacher training for apparatus with Juliet Harvey in Beacon, NY. Kara also became a licensed massage therapist in 2005 after her training at the Center for Massage and Natural Health in Weaverville NC. She is nationally certified with the National Certification Board for Therapeutic Massage and Body Work (NCBTMB). Her gentle style and calming demeanor provide an added benefit as she instructs the inmate participants.



### **HO! HO! HO!**

*By Terry Mooney*

It seems so long ago that Santa came to our facility. It was December, and we were moving rapidly toward the winter holidays. He carried his bags of gifts throughout the facility, personally wishing each and every inmate a hearty M-E-R-R-Y C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S! Santa brought snacks, pens, combs, writing paper, envelopes and holiday cards for people to write home, donated by generous citizens in our community. Santa’s flowing white beard disguised someone we all know and love, our jovial and kind-hearted volunteer, Ed Schaffner, who faithfully facilitates programs for men and women every week, and once a year spreads warm wishes and holiday cheer.



Santa visits to deliver goodie  
bags to inmates during the  
holiday season.

## A Day in the Life of a Pike County Correctional Facility Volunteer....

*Submitted by Mary Stanley*



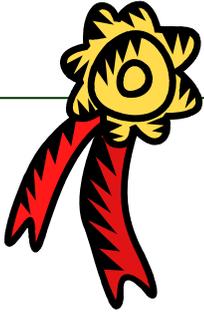
Close to four years ago, I entered the Pike County Correctional Facility to facilitate a group about parenting for the women in the H. O. P. E. Program. Sleep eluded me the previous evening and my heart rate at that moment was rapid. The tension I felt only increased, when it was requested I remove all my jewelry, lock it in a locker and walk through a weapon detector. When I did so, the bells went off and I jumped startled asking, “why me?” It was my shoes. When I removed the shoes, I walked through without any alarms sounding. A corrections officer escorted me to the H. O. P. E. women’s unit where the group was to take place. Fear gripped me. Every attempt to calm it failed. Gruesome prison thought flooded me. I attempted to turn around, when the lovely officer opened the door and introduced me to the female officer in charge. The officer introduced me to the women and the rest is history. I have hardly missed a week since then, often offering individual counseling to the women another day a week.

So, how did my prevailing panic state become an attitude of appreciation and gratefulness? An attitude that looks forward most weeks to volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility for the women in the H. O. P. E. Program. I facilitate both parenting groups and a group that correlates substance abuse with previous trauma in women’s lives. With this learning, the offenders have a basis for understanding the origin of their negative feelings, low self-esteem, substance abuse and inappropriate behaviors. With this knowledge and understanding, the women’s motivation is encouraged to make positive changes fueled by feelings of less self-hate and blame.

The parenting curriculum is exciting to teach as I observe first hand the women being introspective about their past behaviors, while encouraged to make positive changes.

I believe that is the beauty of volunteering at the Pike County Correctional Facility. The attitude at the whole Facility is not to blame anyone. Everyone makes a mistake and the Pike County Correctional Facility works diligently to allow its offenders an opportunity to leave with information and skills to start again. I love the ability to treat and see the women as normal everyday people like you and me, who may have just had a life much more difficult than you or me processing ineffective coping skills that lead to inappropriate choices. Most are truly contrite and the women in the H. O. P. E. Program are willing to participate in any program that will assist them in building their self-esteem or learn skills that will help them be productive members of society when released.

It is an honor and a privilege to work with the women at the Pike County Correctional Facility. Certainly, you have something to share with them.



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### Officer of the Quarter

*October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010*



Correctional Officer Joseph Yencik has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. Officer Yencik has been employed at the facility since August 2006 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

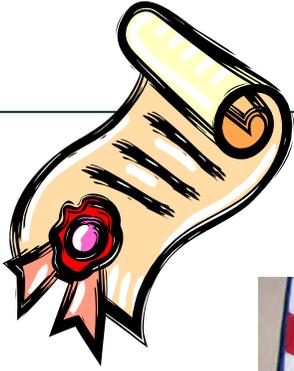
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### Employee of the Quarter

*October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010*



Administration Clerk Cathleen LaBosco has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for October through December 2010. Ms. LaBosco has been employed at the facility since October 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.



## CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### Officer of the Quarter *January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011*



Correctional Officer Kevin Riker has been selected as “Officer of the Quarter” for January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011. Officer Riker has been employed at the facility since August 2009 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

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### Employee of the Quarter *January 1, 2011 through March 31, 2011*



Administration Clerk Deborah Ryan has been selected as “Employee of the Quarter” for January through March 2011. Ms. Ryan has been employed at the facility since August 2010 and has exhibited professionalism and dedication to the facility mission.

*Congratulations to*  
Correctional Officer Pierre Delaplace  
recipient of the  
Pike County Correctional Facility  
**CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR 2010 AWARD**



Correctional Officer Pierre Delaplace has been chosen as “Correctional Officer of the Year 2010”. Since his employment with the Pike County Correctional facility began in October 2000, Officer Delaplace has performed his duties in an outstanding manner, demonstrating professionalism, proficiency, and dedication to the facility mission with exemplary diligence.

Officer Delaplace’s superior performance reflects honor and pride upon himself, his co-workers, Pike County and the Pike County Correctional Facility. Hats off to you, Officer Delaplace, for your contribution to our commitment to excellence!!!

## Training within P. C. C. F.

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### **Don't Get a Case of the "Fugget About Its!"**

*By Terry Mooney*

If something happens to someone around us, it affects us, even if we don't want to believe it. Therefore, if someone is in jail, so are we. Okay, I know this sounds outrageous, but think about it. We all affect each other, because we basically rely on each other. I rely on you to respect me and my family. I rely on you not to rob my house or steal my car. Being in jail is already their punishment, so it's not for us to judge them again.

This is the philosophy of the Pike County Correctional Facility. From Warden Lowe, Assistant Warden Romance, and Assistant Warden McLaughlin on down through the ranks of Officers and Administration Staff, everyone cares about everyone else. This is not an easy business to run. Currently, I am in the midst of basic training. Everyone is required to attend and pass the exams, not just Corrections Officers but also Administrative Personnel, Maintenance, and anyone employed by the Facility. What has impressed me most is the thorough coverage of what is expected of us as professionals. This is high-level corporate-type training as I have experienced in the past working for Fortune 500 corporations.



For example, we are taught "Interpersonal Communications in the Correctional Setting," IPC's for short. We have a manual that we follow about "The Basics" that include how we carry ourselves, observe our surroundings, and listen to those communicating with us. The "Add-ons" take it another step by teaching us how to respond to inmates and ask pertinent questions. Lastly, we are instructed how to "Apply" these skills in managing behavior by handling requests from inmates, making requests of them, and positively reinforcing good behavior.

Every morning, we stand and collectively recite the Pledge of Allegiance, then the Correctional Officer Creed which includes our commitment to honesty, respect for others and "the commitment to excellence, professionalism and compassionate service." This is something I've never been required to do in any other job; but we all should. No matter what we do in life, we should remind ourselves daily of our commitment to treat others as we wish to be treated.

# About our Programs...

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## **C. O. R. E.**

*“Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively”*

Written by Tom

The C. O. R. E. program is for people who graduated from the A. R. R. O. W. program. C. O. R. E. allows participating inmates to work outside the facility. When I was selected to participate in C.O. R. E., I was honored because only a select group of inmates who meet the established criteria can participate in this prestigious program.

I have been given the opportunity to learn new skills that will help me gain meaningful employment when I am released. Some examples are outdoor landscaping, indoor and outdoor maintenance, small engine repair, and waste water treatment plant maintenance. For people who like to work outdoors, this education could open the door for a new career.

This is a wonderful opportunity to also learn construction trades such as framing, sheet rocking and painting which could prove invaluable in a job search. I am proud to be involved in such a program that not only makes me a better person, but also helps improve the whole community, as well as saving the county money.

In closing, the C. O. R. E. program teaches inmates valuable work skills and professionalism, and motivates them to strive for a better future.

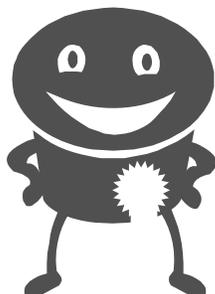


C. O. R. E. TEACHES VALUABLE SKILLS AND PROFESSIONALISM AND MOTIVATES OFFENDERS TO STRIVE FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

## **WINNERS OF APRIL 2011 ESSAY CONTEST**

### **H. O. P. E. Program**

1st Prize: Conklin, Sarah  
2nd Prize: Vogel, Paula  
3rd Prize: Greene, Michelle



### **C. O. R. E. Program**

Brandt, Thomas

### **A. R. R. O. W. Program**

1st Prize: Cloud, Tyson  
2nd Prize: James, Terrell  
3rd Prize: Petterson, Jr. Edward

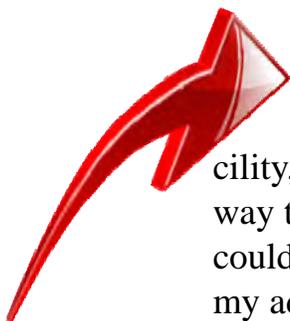
### **M. O. R. E. Program**

1st Prize: Crawford, Rickie  
2nd Prize: Durham, Dwayne



## **A. R. R. O. W. Program**

*“Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows”*  
Written by Tyson



When I started my incarceration at the Pike County Correctional Facility, I thought signing up for the A. R. R. O. W. program was just some way to make my time go faster. After being in the program, I realized I couldn't have been more wrong! The program didn't just teach me about my addiction, but also taught me how to fight it, or “just say no.”

Before I came to Pike County, I thought I had it all figured out and under control. Again, I couldn't have been more wrong. I was so used to having friends mad at me, or getting into fights; my addiction was second nature. But thanks to A. R. R. O. W., I know that there are better things in life, like being clean, sober and having a clear head.

Coming to the Pike County Correctional Facility, and specifically the A. R. R. O. W. program, was definitely a push in the right direction. It's one thing to think you know what to do, and it's quite another thing to actually go out and be able to do it. Thanks to the A. R. R. O. W. program, I can leave here with confidence.

“THANKS TO  
A. R. R. O. W.  
I KNOW THERE  
ARE BETTER  
THINGS IN LIFE,  
LIKE BEING CLEAN  
AND SOBER  
AND HAVING A  
CLEAR HEAD.”

## **M. O. R. E. Program**

*“Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Effectively”*  
Written by Rickie

Being incarcerated has made me realize that the choices I've made in life determine my future; costing my marriage and everything I've dreamed of, worked for and loved. Joining the M. O. R. E. program has assured me the opportunity to develop new skills and coping strategies in my effort to promote post-incarceration success in all areas of personal development and community re-integration.

The M. O. R. E. program is teaching me how to endure the frustration of being separated from family and loved ones. It is helping me understand each phase of my transformation. I visualize a positive outcome for my future. Where I saw obstacles, I now see opportunities.

The M. O. R. E. program teaches us how to overcome failure and sorrow, as well as how to reestablish a deep connection between our mental, physical and spiritual attributes which will help our innate abilities of living a conscious and fulfilling life upon release from incarceration.

If we follow what the M. O. R. E. program offers us, we have the potential to change our life around. We can turn a negative experience into a positive one in order to reach our goals. This program has been a turning point in my life.

**H. O. P. E. Program**  
*“Helping Offenders Promote Excellence”*  
Written by Sarah

I have been incarcerated in the Pike County Correctional Facility since May 22, 2009. During that time, I have completed the H. O. P. E. Program and I can honestly say that I am very happy that this program exists.

Unfortunately, I have been in other jails, and they do not have any kind of help for incarcerated inmates, especially females. Yet in this facility, the volunteers are wonderful and are truly there to help us. Programs such as Parenting, Trauma Recovery, Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Employment Skills, Life Skills, and many different kinds of religious programs are offered to help us re-enter society. We also learn Looming where we make hats and scarves to be donated to Pike County Children and Youth Services, as well as our area senior citizens.

My relationship with my family and children is the best it has been in nearly six years. I’ve learned how to ask for forgiveness for all the things that I have done wrong to them for so many years.

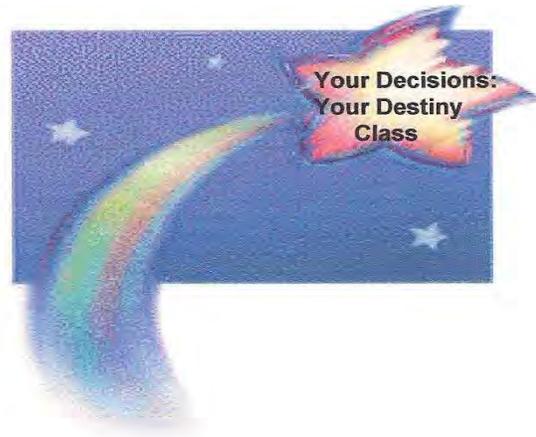
I would like to thank the Pike County Correctional Facility staff and Officers for their help and consideration when developing this program. The counselors we have are great when it comes to helping us with problems. I know that I want to go out there and teach the right things to my children so they don’t get into any kind of situation like this. I will always remember this experience.



PROGRAMS, SUCH AS PARENTING, TRAUMA RECOVERY, NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS AND ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS HELP US TO RE-ENTER SOCIETY.

1520 Hemlock Farms  
Lords Valley, PA 18428  
May 4, 2011

Warden Craig A. Lowe  
Pike County Correctional Facility  
175 Pike County Blvd.  
Lords Valley, PA 18428



Dear Warden Lowe,

As a volunteer who has taught the **Your Decisions: Your Destiny Class** over the past five years, I want to share with you my gratitude for the kind and generous help that Officer Graham has offered me in improving my materials for the course. One of the components of the class is a section entitled "Map Your Music", in which various popular and classical pieces of music are played for the participants who, in turn, complete a chart that helps them to classify the messages from the lyrics embodied in the song. Such themes are: *Children of War, Children's Rights, Homelessness, Health/Self Improvement, Food Distribution, World of Work, Racial Equality, Caring/Loving, Hope/Peace/Harmony, Economic Equity/Sharing, Ecology, Technological Change, and History/The Millennium*. The songs and poetry range from Robert Frost to Michael Jackson. For many years, I have taught this course with the frustration that the old tape I was using was poor, at best. Officer Graham, having been on duty in the H.O.P.E. program more than once when I was presenting, offered to research the internet for clearer copies of the music. She did a fantastic job of putting these on CDs for me, in the order which I use them. I have expressed my written appreciation to her for this wonderful help, but also want to draw your attention to what you probably already know: that her offer to do this on her own time is another example of the fine officer that she is! Officer Graham has greatly enhanced the program that I offer at the jail, and I will always be grateful to her for the very professional job that she did! Her willing spirit and her dedication to the job attest to the quality of all personnel that my husband and I see, day in and day out, throughout the facility!

Gratefully,

*Carolyn R. Baker*

Carolyn R. Baker

cc

Assistant Warden Robert E. McLaughlin  
Theresa Mooney, Counselor & Programs  
Erica Zaleck, Counselor & Programs



Thank you Officer Graham for going above and beyond the call of duty to help Mrs. Baker facilitate her program more efficiently.

## Recent Promotions, Recognitions and Additions to the P.C.C.F. Team....

On March 18th and May 20, 2011 Class #50 and #51 completed our basic training and subsequently graduated. Below is a list of Correctional Officers and support staff members who successfully completed basic training and are now utilizing their skills within our facility:

C. O. Matthew Bunting, C. O. Eric Christensen, C. O. Ildiko Kober, C. O. Carmine Langone, C. O. Christopher Malzahn, C. O. Edward Ramsey, C. O. Frank LoPorto, C. O. Vincent Giavanniello, C. O. Francesco Sorace, and Treatment Counselor Mary Keller.

We wish these Correctional Officers and Ms. Keller the best of luck with their new careers and thank them for their dedication to our mission. Additionally, we would also like to extend best wishes to Officer John Orefice and Officer Gary Kirchner on their recent retirements.

On March 30, 2011, Officer Jonathan Freeswick was presented with his two year service pin and certificate of accomplishment for his dedication.

We extend a warm welcome to Walter Mruczkewycz who joined our maintenance team in January, and Mary Keller who was hired in March as a Treatment Counselor.

### Recent promotions within our security staff include:

*Sergeant James Wincovitch* was promoted to *Lieutenant* in November 2010, *Sergeant Robert Serrano* was promoted to *Lieutenant* in January 2011. Correctional Officer **William Graham** was promoted to *Sergeant* in February 2011 and Correctional Officers **Brian Bartsch** and **Kevin Riker** were promoted in June to *Sergeant*. Best of luck to all in their new positions!



### DID YOU KNOW?????

A. R. R. O. W. Program participants work diligently to prepare over 65,000 meals annually for all of Pike County's homebound meals.

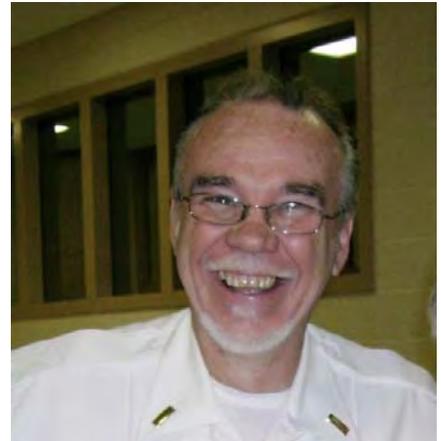
In line with the philosophical approach supported by Warden Lowe, A. R. R. O. W. Program participants apply culinary skills they learn during program participation to provide healthy and wholesome meals that are distributed to the county's elderly and homebound. Invaluable skills acquired during incarceration not only serve the community but also provide significant ability that will lead to gainful employment upon release from incarceration. This is one more indication that the Pike County Correctional Facility is "Committed to Excellence!"

AND

We will be donating more scarves, hats, and other gifts to our seniors in Pike County, as well as, the much deserving youth in the care of Pike County Children and Youth Services which are created by our H. O. P. E. participants, in the near future...

## PRAYERS REQUESTED....

We humbly ask for you to guide your thoughts and prayers to Pike County Correctional Facility Staff Training and Development Officer, *Lieutenant Kenny Barnes* as he bravely forges through a difficult time. For those of you who wish to convey a personal message of support, you may do so at [www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org). Go to "visit website" and type in kennymichelebarnes.

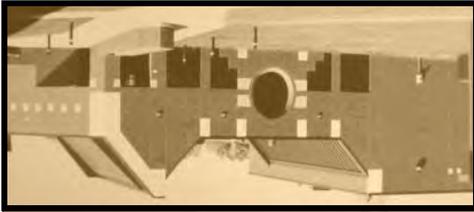


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## 2011 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

A graphic designed to look like a piece of aged, yellowed parchment with a deckled edge. In the top left corner, there is a small compass rose with the letters N, S, E, and W. In the bottom right corner, there is a small line drawing of a three-masted sailing ship. The text is centered on the parchment.

Ahoy me mateys!  
You and a shipmate are invited to  
a pirate party aboard the "Shackled Ship".  
At the Pike County Correctional Facility.  
**September 15, 2011 at 6:00 pm.**  
R.S.V.P. to shipmates Erica Zaleck or Theresse Mooney  
by September 2, 2011.  
(OR YOU WILL WALK THE PLANK!)



Committed to Excellence

PIKE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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Pike County Correctional Facility  
175 Pike County Blvd  
Lords Valley, PA 18428

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In 1814 work began on the Pike County Courthouse; it was completed in 1815. This structure served as a Courthouse and Jail until 1851 when a small brick building was built in front of the present Courthouse. (This was removed when the present Courthouse was built in 1872-73).

The Pike County Correctional Facility was built in 1995. It is a 87,800 square foot, non-smoking Facility, situated on 268 acres in Blooming Grove Township. Our direct supervision 352 bed Facility houses both male and female offenders. Educational, religious, and rehabilitative programs are provided to assist offenders in reintegrating into society. During their incarceration, female offenders have the opportunity to participate in the H.O.P.E. Program (Helping Offenders Promote Excellence). The A.R.R.O.W. Program (Actively Reducing Recidivism Opens Windows) offers qualified male Pike County offenders the opportunity to change their lives through intensive rehabilitative programming. Upon successful completion, eligible offenders may graduate to the C.O.R.E. Program (Correctional Offenders Reintegrating Effectively) where they will continue their rehabilitative efforts by learning new skills through community service. The M.O.R.E. Program (Motivating Offenders to Reintegrate Effectively) is available to all male offenders interested in making positive changes in their life. The Pike County Correctional Facility is working together to ensure that our community is safer for everyone.