

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
SAM SPINO**



Sam Spino, OEM Coordinator, received a letter of recognition from the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness commending him for his involvement in the Maritime Security Training Project (MSLEOP) with the Port of Delaware AMSC Training & Exercise Committee and the NJ Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.

The letter stated that by sharing resources, facilities, talent, and geographical understanding of the infrastructure needed by first responders, private sector port facility personnel, and military assets in the region, Sam assisted, along with our regional partners, in delivering 15 iterations of a professional training program.

Sam also helped to plan, organize, manage, and control this sizeable project that supported training in the States of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. In addition to the training assistance he provided, Sam has forged important partnerships within the Homeland Security community. Kudos to Sam for his leadership and dedication to the regions Homeland Security mission.



(left to right) Yulanda Haddix, Juvenile Detention Association's Teacher of the Year, with Youth Center Administrator Karen Weidner and Education Supervisor Tammy Hardy.

**YOUTH CENTER TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

The Youth Center is very pleased to announce that Yulanda Haddix was chosen as the New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association's Teacher of the Year for 2010 and 2011.

Ms. Haddix has been a teacher at the Camden County Youth Center (CCYC) for 14 years. She began her career at the Youth Center as an intern in the position of instructional aide. She worked in this position for one year.

As a result of her great desire to continue to work with at risk youth, Ms. Haddix pursued her degree in special education and became a full-time teacher at the Youth Center.

In the beginning of her career at CCYC, she taught a variety of academic subjects including mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies.

Presently, Ms. Haddix teaches Family Life. In this capacity, she provides instruction in the areas of parenting, job readiness, sex education, life skills, substance abuse awareness, driver's education, technology and performing arts.

Ms. Haddix enjoys working with a population of students that most teachers would find difficult to do. She considers this type of work her true calling in life.

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The Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice is comprised of the Park Police, Office of the Fire Marshal, Office of Emergency Management, Regional Emergency Training Center, Countywide Communications Center, and Youth Center

[www.camdencounty.com](http://www.camdencounty.com) **1-866-CAMDENCOUNTY**

# THE COMMUNICATOR

camden county DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY & JUVENILE JUSTICE

SUMMER 2011

## RADIO MIGRATION PROGRESS

The County's 700 MHz Radio Migration Project continues to make significant progress. Stage 1, which is fully funded by the Board of Freeholders, will result in the complete migration of the County's EMS and Fire Services communities to a 700 MHz spectrum and will ensure all public safety entities are compliant with the FCC's narrow-banding mandate of January 1, 2013.

Stage 2 will involve the migration of most County Agencies to the 700 MHz spectrum and will take place after the completion of State 1.

The 700 MHz Radio Migration Project is directed toward the County's public safety community only. All other government entities (public works, code enforcement, etc...) will be required to comply with the aforementioned FCC mandate via their own means.

Tower sites for Camden County's new 700 MHz Public Safety Radio System should be completed by December of 2011. It is anticipated that consoles and base station installations will begin in February of 2012. Console integration and master controller and microwave commissioning are planned for April 2012. Base station integration and cut-over is scheduled for May 2012.

If the project stays on its current timetable, system and coverage testing prior to the system cut-over will take place in June 2012. We will continue to keep you updated on the progress of Camden County's new 700 MHz Public Safety Radio System in the coming months.



The new communications antenna tower site at the campus of Camden County College, Blackwood, NJ, is in the final phase of construction. The tower structure, radio equipment shelter, and emergency power generator are in place.

**FREEHOLDER'S FORUM**



**Freeholder Rodney A. Greco**  
Liaison to the Department of Public Safety

**Grants Fund Public Safety**

The Camden County Freeholder Board recently authorized numerous grant-funded purchases and projects for the Department of Public Safety. I congratulate everyone at the Camden County Department of Public Safety and individuals in various municipalities that worked diligently to secure grant funding to benefit the residents of Camden County. Each grant that was received allows the county to acquire needed safety equipment and training without creating an extra burden of county taxpayers. For that, you are all to be applauded.

The grants received include the New Jersey State Police hazardous materials emergency preparedness training for first responders, an Emergency Operations Center technology upgrade, the purchase of traffic camera monitors for communications center dispatchers, a Mobile Ventilation Vehicle through the Homeland Security and Port Security Grant Programs, Web Computer Aided Dispatch for large scale incidents, Mobile Data Computer docking stations and mounts for the Park Police, along with Mobile Data Computer equipment for EMS and Field Communications.

I commend the work of the men and women who serve the public in all areas of Public Safety. Your dedication to the residents of this county is unwavering, and I am proud to be your liaison on the Freeholder Board. I also would like to express my appreciation to the members of our State Legislature and congressional delegations who provide guidance and support for our grant application opportunities.



**CAMDEN CITY FIRES TEST DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**

The rash of serious building fires that plagued Camden City earlier this summer tested the resources of the Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice on multiple occasions. It began on the afternoon of June 9th when Communications received a report of a building fire at Chestnut and Orchard Streets. The 9-1-1 phones were flooded with calls telling of thick smoke coming from the building. Dispatchers worked for the next eight hours to coordinate response resources from Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties that were used to fight the 12-alarm fire.

Communications and Office of Emergency Management personnel and assets were deployed to the fire scene to operate command posts and rehab stations. The Office of the Fire Marshal provided its fire and arson investigative resources.

Two days later on June 11th, a large commercial building in the 400 block of Winslow Street erupted in flames triggering an 8-alarm response of Camden City and Camden County fire departments. Again the dispatchers from Communications worked both in Lindenwold and at the scene to coordinate responding apparatus that included a fireboat from the City of Philadelphia. Additionally, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Office of Emergency Management responded and provided assistance in their respective areas of expertise.

On June 19th, another large building fire at 1689 Federal Street resulted in a 6-alarm fire that endangered a neighborhood. The combined efforts of Camden City and neighboring fire departments controlled the fire with the assistance of Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice personnel and assets. Additionally during this time period, the Camden City Fire Department handled a 2-alarm fire on June 14th, a 3-alarm fire on July 2nd and another 2-alarm fire on July 5th. All of these fires also utilized Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice personnel and assets.

The Communications Center's response to these extraordinary incidents worked in conjunction with its normal business of 9-1-1 call taking and radio dispatching for the remainder of the County's EMS, Fire, and Police agencies. Added to the approximately 1,800 daily 9-1-1 calls, the response to these major fires presented a significant test of the Communications Center's systems and personnel, which was passed with flying colors.

A task force was initiated to provide a comprehensive response to, and investigation of these major fires. Among task force members were arson and fire investigators and law enforcement personnel from Camden City, the County's Office of the Fire Marshal and Office of the Prosecutor, the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and the New Jersey State Police.

**CAMDEN COUNTY COMMUNICATION EMPLOYEES HONORED AS HEROES**



Craig Reiner, Director of the New Jersey Office of Emergency Telecommunications Service (left) presents the 911 Telecommunicator Hero Award to (from second left to right) Lieutenant George Marx, PST Ian Wright, Lieutenant Greg Lydic, PST Marion Walsh, PST Dolores Lavagna, and PST James Broderick.

The State of New Jersey has recognized eight Camden County Communication employees with the 911 Telecommunicator Hero Award for their involvement in two separate 911 calls. The Hero Award recognizes telecommunicators who go above and beyond the course of their duties in serving the public.

"The professionalism of the men and women who work at Camden County Communications is to be commended," said Freeholder Rodney A. Greco, liaison to the Department of Public Safety. "Their quick thinking and coordinated response benefit the residents of this county every day."

The Camden County honorees are: Greg Lydic, Dolores Lavagna, Marion Welsh, George Marx, James Broderick, Michael Brown, and Ian Wright. They were commended for outstanding work

performed during a 911 cell phone call on September 23, 2010. The call was received from an individual who had taken a hike in the woods, and was unable to determine his location. Contact was lost several times throughout the early morning hours.

George Marx and PST Dolores Lavagna were also nominated for an a 911 Telecommunicator Hero Award for a phone call on March 5th, 2011.

A caller stated he had lost contact with his girlfriend who was not feeling well and driving some distance. To help determine her location, her cell phone company was contacted to determine her last know latitude and longitude for plotting purposes.

"They exhibited exceptional proficiency in utilizing the tools and technology available to them to get the job done," said Freeholder Greco.

**CONGRATULATIONS, CAPT. BRISBIN!**



On July 21, 2011 the Camden County Communications Center celebrated the last working day for Captain Rich Brisbin. Rich has been with the Communications Center for 34 years

and has served as a Fire and Ambulance Dispatcher, Platoon Lieutenant, Training Officer, Watch Commander and Administrative Captain.

Rich is a huge Phillies fan and for his last day the Communications Center held a Phillies Dollar Dog Day in Rich's honor. Center dispatchers and staff dressed in their best Phillies attire and hot dogs were served all day long.

At 7 pm when his final shift was over, a parade of fire, EMS and police vehicles saluted Captain Brisbin in front of the Communications Center as a final send off. Thank you for your 34 years of service and enjoy your retirement.

**IN MEMORIAM:  
Louis A. Rodriguez, Jr.  
February 9, 1958 - May 3 2011**



On May 3rd, the Department of Public Safety sadly announced the passing of our Data System Programmer, Louis A. Rodriguez, Jr.

Lou served as a proud member of the U.S. Marine Corps before starting a lengthy career with the County of Camden. He started as a seasonal employee in 1970 and became an officer with the County Sheriff's Department in 1981.

He resigned from the Sheriff's Department in 1985 to pursue a college education. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in computer science and accounting.

He then started working at the Communications Center as a police dispatcher in 1990, moving up through the ranks to Lieutenant in 1996, Captain in 1998 and finally as Data Programmer in 2003.

The past few years Lou has endured incredible health issues yet he continued coming to work everyday that he physically could. He was truly a dedicated employee and, more importantly, considered by everyone to be an all-around good guy. Lou will be sadly missed.