



Norma Monte, CCP Civil Section Employee of the Year displays her award at the annual holiday party.

# The Courterly

## YVRP Works to Prevent Youth Violence

First in a series of articles about Community-Based Probation and the Youth Violence Reduction Partnership with FJD Adult and Juvenile Probation Departments. The first installation concentrates on Juvenile Probation.

**Inside this issue:**

YVRP	1
President Judge I	1
President Judge II	2
Hero: Joe Hassett	3
Milestones	4
Norma Monte	5
READS	8
Adult POs Training	10

**Special points of interest:**

- Partnership helps to prevent violence on Philly streets
- Arbitration's Joe Hassett gets a hero's recognition
- C. Darnell Jones Elected and Sworn In as President Judge.
- Norma Monte is Civil Employee of the Year

When I met with the team of probation officers from the Community Based Probation Services Office in West Philadelphia ("Community-Based West" or CBW), I was introduced to a group of bright, knowledgeable, young people who are confident of what they're doing, and what they know about their charges in the program. As one of their supervisors later confided, "Being on the street is a young person's game." Steve Christian, who gave me a ride to the meeting, and looks to be in his 40's, is known as the "Godfather of YVRP." He is sometimes called the "Grandfather of YVRP," but they say only because he's been with the program since its inception. With offices at 46<sup>th</sup> and Market, the group included Probation Officers (POs) assigned to geographic units,



YVRP POs. Standing (l-r): Jamal Shellmon, Steven Christian, Joseph Cockerill, Dianna McMillan, Benjamin Scott. Seated (l-r): Tina Marie Coley, Supervisor YVRP West; Pete Kropp, Assistant Supervisor, Community Based Probation North (CBN). Not pictured: PO Kevin Gordon

Glen Mills Schools, School-Based Probation, Electronic Monitoring, Community Services/Community Liaison, and the Youth Violence Reduction

Partnership (YVRP).

On the day that I visited, CBW Lead Supervisor Miriam

*(Continued on page 5)*

## President Judge Massiah-Jackson is Feted

President Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson was feted at a crowded gathering filled with hundreds of well-wishers and supporters thanking her for her dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of the citizens of Philadelphia and the employees of the First Judicial District. She is a popular figure among the members of the Bench and Bar and the workforce of the District, so many people turned out for the tribute held at the FJD Law Library on

the sixth floor of City Hall. The party was well organized and it was apparent that those attending enjoyed themselves while celebrating the accomplishments achieved under the President Judge's leadership over the last five years.

The President Judge was presented with a ceremonial crystal gavel, and lauded in speeches by her colleagues from the Bench. Her tenure as President Judge concluded on January 10 when Judge



(l-r) CP President Judge C. Darnell Jones II, TC President Judge Thomisine Tynes, PA Supreme Court Justice Sandra S. Newman, outgoing CP President Judge Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson, and MC President Judge Louis J. Prezenza

*(Continued on page 2)*



Above, shown in the robbing and staging area prior to the ceremony are, left to right: Judge Idee C. Fox, Judge Esther R. Sylvester, President Judge C. Darnell Jones II, and Judge Allan L. Tereshko.

### President Judge C. Darnell Jones II Sworn In

On Friday, January 20, 2006, President Judge C. Darnell Jones II was formally sworn in as President Judge of the FJD Court of Common Pleas.

Held in the Ceremonial Courtroom 653, the investiture included scores of judges who processed into the room accompanied by classical

music provided by Prothonotary Joseph Evers. Following an inspired invocation by the Pastor John Croft of the Fellowship Christian Church, remarks from the Bench were provided by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Schultz Newman, and President Judges Emeritus Alex Bonavitacola and Edward J. Bradley. The Bar was repre-

sented by Vice Chancellor A. Michael Pratt, Esquire. The oath of office was administered by President Judge Emeritus Frederica A. Massiah-Jackson who was the last to occupy the President Judge's office.

In his closing remarks that included references to family, President Judge Jones encouraged all the members of the court, the administrators and staff to work together to achieve success.

This was a moving ceremony, befitting the office, and the message.



Newly sworn in President Judge C. Darnell Jones II greets well-wishers.

*(Continued from page 1)*

C. Darnell Jones II took over the reins of the District as he assumed the responsibilities of the Office of the President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

**At the celebration for Judge Massiah-Jackson.** Right, Eileen Plotnick and Jim Clark, Law Librarian. Below left (l-r) Prothonotary Joe Evers, Frank Talent, and President Judge C. Darnell Jones II. Below right (l-r): Former Human Resources DCA Tom Bly, and Programmer Manager Harold Palmer





## Arbitration Manager Joseph L. Hassett, Esquire: Hero



Above: Joe Hassett addresses the gathering held in his honor. Below: Arthur Savage thanks Joe for saving his life.



Below: Joe and his family hear accounts of his heroism.



In a moving formal ceremony on February 1<sup>st</sup>, Arbitration Center Manager Joseph L. Hassett, Esquire received the prestigious and rarely-awarded Certificate of Merit from the American Red Cross, signed by the President of the United States. Proclaimed a hero before his friends, family, co-workers and other court leaders, Joe was the only person from this area to earn the Certificate in the last ten years. From all across the country, only 69 others were awarded the Certificate of Merit in 2005.

Joe saved the life of Arthur Saunders, an Arbitration Center litigant, when, during a hearing, Mr. Saunders collapsed suffering from a heart attack. Using one of the portable external defibrillators located throughout court-occupied buildings, Joe had to apply shocks three times to restore Mr. Saunders' breathing, pulse, and consciousness during the crucial minutes before emergency personnel arrived on the scene.

Remarks from Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald, lawyer P. Douglas Sisk, Esquire, and Red Cross CEO Tom Foley painted a clear picture of Joe Hassett's courage. His calm and effective actions under dire circumstances were said to be a perfect example of Ernest Hemingway's definition of courage: "Grace under fire."

We're proud of Joe, and the other 69 employee volunteers who sacrifice their time and effort to undergo training for annual certification in the use of the defibrillators. They stand ready to help us and our customers should the need arise. We should also be proud of Shanda Holloway, from the FJD Human Resources Department who administers the program to organize volunteers, schedule training, maintain the equipment – and in this case, help to save some-

one's life – as just a part of her many responsibilities. Without the support of the FJD Administrative Governing Board and Joe Hassett's heroism, an emergency – and a man's life – may have turned out very differently.

### *Defibrillator Program Volunteers*

- Marlene Dorsey**
- Shanda Holloway**
- Carolyn Dombrowski**
- Kathryn Gallagher**
- Anthony Romano**
- Keith Smith**
- Carole Scurry**
- Joseph Hassett**
- Raphael Vargas**
- Denise Lancaster**
- James White**
- Frank Spatocco**
- Karleen Flowers**
- Mario D'Adamo**
- Harold Palmer**
- Kenneth Doyle**
- Alice Flamer**
- Joseph Ferrero**
- Mark Poggio**
- Patricia Blow**
- Rita Rastelli**
- Mary Dougherty**
- Carol Blackmon**
- Dana Della Valla**
- John DiBernardo**
- Susan Vacca**
- John Giampietro**
- Jennifer Ruggiano**
- Joanne Weglicki**
- Maria Pugliese**
- Joyce Talota**
- Michael Harmon**
- Kimi Kamihira**
- Judith Williams**
- Bonnie O'Kane**
- Jason Waterman**
- Mary Flood**
- Gary Irvine**
- Winifred Gilmore**

*(See Lifesavers on page 11)*

## Anniversaries

(10/01/05—12/31/05)		
Name, Assignment, & Years of Service		
Berger, Bruce A	JUVENILE BRANCH	35
Cannataro, David	PROCUREMENT	35
Drapiewski, Jan P	ADULT PROBATION GE	35
Alleva, Mark A	DOMESTIC REL, APPT	30
Browne, Jacqueline	ADULT PROBATION GE	30
Clark III, Samuel R	GENERAL TIPSTAFF	30
D'Ortona Jr., John	BUILDING/FACILITIE	30
Hoye, Lewis E	CIVIL ADMINISTRATI	30
Hurt, Arbella J	ADOPTIONS	30
Prete, Michael J	ADULT PROBATION GE	30
Taborne, Sherry D	GENERAL TIPSTAFF T	30
Vacca, Susan M	DR CHILD SUPPORT	30
Branco, Frank	GENERAL TC	25
Knowles, James G	DR CHILD SUPPORT	25
Nogowski, Grace E	JUDGE NEIFIELD	25
Palmer, Nicholas C	PROTHONOTARY PRJ	25
Romano, Anthony J	PROCUREMENT	25
Severio, Domenic R	ADMINISTRATION	25
Sieck, Carol A	JUDGE LAZARUS	25
Burgess, Isaiah	ADULT PROBATION GE	20
Davis, Lorraine	DOMESTIC RELATIONS	20
Giacobetti, Cynthia	ADULT PROBATION GE	20

## Retirements

(10/01/05 –12/31/05)		
Name, Assignment, & Years of Service		
Giordano, Anthony A	Court Reporter MC	39
Harlow, William D	Court Adm Ofcr 4	34
Trader, Anita L	Clerk Typist II	39
St Clair, Hannah J	Court Represen 1	15
Reynolds, Frank	Cler Asst II	8
Delp, Angela M	Probation Ofcr 2	38
Rodgers, Michael R	Court Adm Ofcr 3	27
Schaefer, William J	Senior Court Reporte	33
Freeman, Richard G	Law Clerk 1	8
McGovern, Mary K	Director I	28
Gatter, Nancy	Legal Clerk 1	16
Nowacky, Elizabeth	Legal Clerk 2	18
Mooney, Anthony R	Tipstaff 1 (Jud)	9
Daehnke, Marlene T	Clerk Typist I	5
Yotsko, Michael J	Tipstaff 1 (Jud)	13
Louis, James	Court Adm Ofcr 1	25
Hawthorne, Virginia	Field Invest	14
Archer, Bonnie R	Court Reporter	2
Easley, Barbara O	Cler Asst/Bail Inter	8
Cerulli, Robert P	Court Reporter MC	37
McGrogan, Theresa	Legal Clerk 2	20
Olonovich, Theresa A	Judicial Secy 2	17
Ziegler, Ronald	Law Clerk 2	24

## FJD Combined Campaign

Through the City of Philadelphia Employees' Combined Campaign, employees contribute to 13 charitable non-profit umbrella organizations represent hundreds of charities working locally and around the world. Donations are distributed among programs that support children and youth, community health, social justice, and advocacy and social services, to name only a few.

Philadelphia has one of the nation's most successful municipal campaigns raising even more money than some larger cities including Los Angeles and Chicago. The FJD is an integral part of that tradition

"Providing Choice, Creating Change" was the theme for the 2006 Campaign. The city established a goal of collecting \$1.4 million. The FJD portion of that goal was \$74,500, and thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of FJD volunteers and the generous support of our employees, the FJD surpassed its goal by receiving pledges

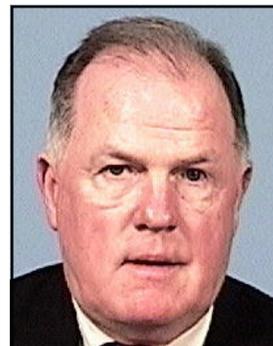
totaling \$76,880 from 543 donors. Special kudos go to Bench Warrant Unit Manager Bill McMonagle, for raising \$24,000 over the last two campaigns.

This marks the third year that the FJD has featured an incentive program for donors. Contributors donating two dollars or more per pay were automatically enrolled in three drawings. Some of the prizes included: two tickets to a 76er's game; a round of golf for two; overnight stays for two at the Loews Hotel, the Marriott and the Holiday Inn in Old City; gift certificates to Lord & Taylor's and Bed, Bath & Beyond; a \$100 gift certificate to the Keating River Grill at Penn's Landing; and so much more!

Many FJD employees expressed an interest in donating to the Hurricane Relief Fund. The 2006 campaign was an excellent opportunity to support charitable organizations providing immediate and long-term resources to hurri-

cane evacuees. Through payroll deductions, donations can be designated to support both emergency relief efforts and local organizations to ensure that our communities stay strong.

The 2006 Employees Campaign has been a great success due to the generous spirit of the FJD workforce and the commitment of the department volunteers. *Thanks for helping those who are less fortunate.*



Bill McMonagle, (DR) helped to collect \$24,000 over 2 years

## Norma Monte: Civil Employee of the Year

The Common Pleas Court Trial Division-Civil Court administration arranged their schedules so that the Employee of the Year award would coincide with their usual gala celebration for the winter holidays. The party featured great food, and a lot of it. As usual, the gathering in Conversation Hall was very well attended. As the highlight of this year's celebration, Norma Monte of the Quality Assurance Unit was presented with her impressive award as the Trial Division-Civil Employee of the Year. Norma is known as a person who is very knowledgeable about automated Civil systems and who is quick to help others by utilizing that Knowledge. She is also a very pleasant person, and an excellent trainer.



Top Left (l-r): Administrative Judge James J. Fitzgerald, III; Norma Monte, DCA Charles Mapp, Sr.; Civil Supervising Judge William J. Manfredi. Top Right: Norma Monte, Employee of the Year. Right, DCA for Trial Division-Civil Charles Mapp, Sr. presents Norma with her award.

**Congratulations  
Norma!**



## YVRP Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

(Mimi) Prioleau was conducting a staff meeting. Present were representatives from most of the units that fall under the umbrella of Community-Based West. **(Ed. Note: Look for more about community-based services in upcoming articles)** The agenda included such items as case Management guidelines, scheduling PO appearances at Treatment Court hearings, forms to be filed, scheduling home visits, PO involvement in certification hearings, a presentation by a service provider, and a brief acknowledgement of the POs who had birthdays that month.

The visit was occasioned by many articles that have touted

YVRP as one of the rare, truly successful efforts at stemming the violence on our streets. And in that sense, it works. In another sense, YVRP and the other services administered through CBW and its North Philadelphia counterpart, Community-Based North (CBN) also work, and work very hard

indeed at what they do to live up to their motto to keep Philadelphia's youth "Alive at 25."

*(Continued on page 6)*



Above, Glen Mills Schools Aftercare Unit (l-r) Colbert Partidge, Nicole Bagby, Eugene Allen. Left, Regular Geographic Probation – CBW (l-r): Cassandra Fletcher-Meredith, Yvonne Brown-Bowler, Tanika Turne, Michael Harmon. Not pictured: June Austin-Ward.

## YVRP Continued

*(Continued from page 5)*

The program's goal is to work with young people who are at risk of killing or being killed on the streets of Philadelphia.

The POs succeed for several reasons. First, they are young, energetic, smart, and dedicated. Second, they are well organized. Third, because of their location, they are available to the kids and young adults with whom they work, and last, they partner with the Police, the schools, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and most importantly with their "Youth Partners." The "P" in YVRP stands for partnership and the kids they work with are known as "Youth Partners." Not delinquents, not defendants, not bad guys, but Youth Partners. And it is the success of the Youth Partners that matters most.

The program began on June 1, 1999 in the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Police Districts in North Philadel-

phia. YVRP is organized according to Police Districts because the Police are integral partners with the POs and the Youth Partners in the effort – not to arrest kids after the fact, but more to prevent the violence from happening in the first place and to improve community relations. YVRP was later expanded to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Police Districts in West Philadelphia. It may continue in its expansion to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Police District in the near future.

The Police and POs also partner with street workers from the Philadelphia Anti-Crime, Anti-Violence Network (PAAN). Add to the mix by including representatives from the schools, the District Attorney's Office, and others, and a considerable amount of time

and energy are dedicated to this violence prevention network. It makes sense. It was a smart move to finally organize and coordinate all the players who have for years been traditionally involved in the effort to stop kids from becoming further involved with crime; and at a minimum, to keep them alive.

And boy are they coordinated. Each week, one of the POS must make a presentation at the Operations Committee (OPSCOM) meetings at which all the institutional partners (Police Community Relations, DHS Supervisors, PAAN Workers, etc.) are present. Probation caseloads are reviewed for progress. The meetings can be somewhat nerve-wracking. During the presentations, parties can question why particular actions were taken, or why they weren't, and the PO/Street Worker Teams must make a good accounting of their reasons.

The OpsCom meetings happen every Tuesday. The YVRP Management meetings occur once a month, and the YVRP Steering Committee meets every other month. The effort is data-driven. Statistics must back up the claims and they should add up to success.

As to the real work, the POS not only work hard, but also work at all times of day. They must have at least 10 contacts with each of the Youth Partners every month. They go on "Targeted Patrols" with two Police Officers until they have



*Pamela Jones-Mundy, Electronic Monitoring*



*Community-Based West Managers (l-r) Yvette Daniels, Assistant Supervisor Community-Based Probation West; Tina Marie Coley, Supervisor YVRP/Community-Based Probation West; Miriam (MiMi) Prioleau Lead Supervisor Community-Based West.*

*(Continued on page 7)*

## YVRP Continued

(Continued from page 6)

completed four “successful” visits by seeing and talking with the youths in their homes or hang-outs between the hours of 4 PM and 12 Midnight. They must also record two successful home visits during traditional work hours, another two in the office, and two “others” contacts which could occur anywhere else (in court, on the street, etc.) These must all be documented in very specific ways. The POs make arrangements for job training, for schooling and GED classes, and many other programs to steer kids toward positive outlets for their energies. They talk to the Youth Partners. Perhaps just as importantly, they listen to them too. The POs are social workers, advocates, counselors, listeners, and law enforcement officers. In short, they have to take caseloads of up to 20 young people who are up to 25 years of age, meet with them in various places at all times of the day and night, and try to prevent them from becoming any more involved with crime and violence. Beyond that, the POS and others try to steer their Youth Partners toward activities that will benefit them, their families and their neighborhoods; our neighborhoods.

Some of the POs with experience comment on the differences between the geography and caseloads covered by the North Philadelphia and West Philadelphia Community-Based Probation Programs. One area may be somewhat more gang

oriented while the other seems to have small pockets of kids acting independently without a gang hierarchy. They describe life on the “street.” The street is the area outside the front door where parents and laws no longer rule; where teens and pre-teens are subjected to the influences of people who have their own very negative interests at heart. They talk about the organized drug dealers who try to take our young people under their wing and fill their



CBW Intern, Lamont Taylor

needs: someone to talk to, someone who appears to really care about them, but in the end, someone who only uses them to further illegal gains and trains them to utilize

violence to protect an illicit business. The negative influences are well-organized and determined.

The POs understand that they and their partners must also be organized, truly committed, and tireless in their efforts.

According to the reports and experts, the murder rate for this most susceptible group of young people is down. The incidence of violence for youth partners between the ages of 14 and 25 is down. This community-based approach works: the court in the community; not downtown. School-based probation works. YVRP works. And, according to what I’ve seen, these FJD employees work – they work very hard. And they deserve our thanks and respect for doing so.

*Editor’s Note: This story focuses on YVRP Juvenile Probation Officers in West Philadelphia. Recent successes in the area of youth violence prevention utilize the concept of com-*

*munity-based probation and court services. Upcoming articles will provide more insights into the community-based probation services and the FJD people who provide them including the Adult Probation Department. The YVRP Partners include juvenile probation, adult probation, Philadelphia Anti-Drug/Anti-Violence Network, the Philadelphia Police*



School Based Probation –CBW (l-r): Frances Stewart, Nadia Darbouze. Not pictured: School-Based POs Geneva Pugh and Ellen Johnson.

*Department, Philadelphia Safe and Sound, the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, the Philadelphia Department of Human Services, the Philadelphia Housing Police, Public/Private Ventures, Philadelphia’s Coordinating Office of Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs and the Philadelphia School District. Some personnel could not appear for photos: Christine Gibsion, Supervisor YVRP CBN; Michael McPeake, YVRP/CBN; POs Michelle Reibel, CB; Timothy Farley, YVRP/CBN; James Marino, YVRP/CBN.*

## You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Child

The Philadelphia READS program engages volunteer coaches (court employees) who provide encouragement, support, and instruction in reading to children from grades 1-3 in the Philadelphia Public Schools. There are two groups performing this great service. One meets at room 380 in City Hall on Wednesdays at noon, and the other coaches meet with their students every Tuesday from 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM in the CJC 12th floor judicial lunchroom. The photos here were taken at a CJC READS meeting.

### City Hall READS Volunteers

*(Photos of the City Hall READS group were featured in the last issue)*

- Barbara Cermele
- Marlesa Newsome-Bryant
- Jacqueline Courtney
- Margaret Donapel
- Jackie Baione
- Chris Evans
- Anna Marie Gibson
- Winifred Gilmore
- Linda Griffin
- Donna Glynn
- Jacqueline Mansfield
- Norma McNeil
- Kathleen Paris
- Denise White
- Patricia Moore-Grant
- Carla Oshea
- Laura Paone
- Vickie Pardo
- Claudia Streets
- Lee Swiacki
- Desiree Vincent
- Tiffany Washington
- Esther Dalturis
- Denia White
- Angie Williams
- Helen Hare
- Linda Williams

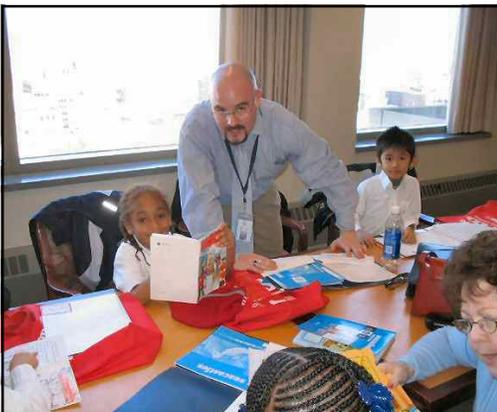
### CJC READS Volunteers

- Sheryl Stepner
- Mary Politano
- Nicole Coppola
- Matthew Market
- Ed Bazemore
- Greg Caldwell
- Michelle Montano
- Chris Grasso
- Laverne King
- Aliya Hassel
- Lorraine Moore
- Jason Munroe
- Joyce Ferrero
- Lutfiyah Al-Amin
- Laura Lombardo
- Joyce Murphy
- Carey Widman
- Kelly Hammer
- Franzella Parsons
- Darece Williford
- Jacquelyn Carlton
- Mary Ann Glackin
- Alicia Gibbs
- Lois Stanford





# Philadelphia Reads



*The Philadelphia READS employee volunteer coaches deserve our congratulations for making a difference in the lives of MANY Philadelphia schoolchildren.*

## Adult Probation Trains Together

In anticipation of its changeover to a computerized caseload management system, the entire Adult Probation-Parole Department participated in a training session on January 12th and 13th. The session was designed to provide the entire staff with an overview of the Probation Case Management System program, "PCMS-Monitor", and the resulting changes in procedural and business practices involving caseload management and record-keeping. Held at the Philadelphia Bar Institute Conference Center, employees received much more from this training session than anticipated.

Prior to attending this training, numerous employees had expressed the sentiment that it would be a long, boring day, filled with one lecture after another. The day began with a delicious continental breakfast. Employees were then greeted by Administrative Judge Fitzgerald, Deputy Court Administrator Dave Lawrence,

who represented Court Administrator Joseph Cairone and David Wasson, Deputy Court Administrator of the Trial Division. Opening remarks concluded with Co-Chief Probation Officer Frank Snyder, and Rob Schwab, president of LORYX, designers of Monitor. Developed and presented by Ed Quinn and Kathleen Intenzo, the training began with an amusing historical perspective on the various methods the APPD has utilized to collect and maintain caseload data. An original and extremely funny



video depicting the Probation Officer's fight to maintain control over numerous and cumbersome record-keeping and data collection procedures was presented. Acted by PO Todd Schwartz and Ed Quinn, and filmed and directed by PO Michael Pancoast, this video set the tone for a day that was filled with information presented in an engaging and fun manner. The day also presented a rare opportunity for Probation Department employees to come together in one location, interacting with co-workers they don't often get to see. Administrative Judge Fitzgerald stated in his remarks that this type of gathering should become a yearly event for the Adult Probation Parole Department. We look forward to it.



Top (l-r): Eleanor Moore and John D'Amico. Left (l-r): PO Tanisha Staggs, Support Staff Bernadette Penn, Support Staff James Owens



Above (l-r): Mike Pancoast and Todd Schwartz. Mike produced and directed the training video, Todd acted in it. Left (l-r): Donna Bullock, Rebecca Butler; Stacy Thomas.



FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Office of the Court Administrator
Room 395
Philadelphia City Hall

Phone: 215-686-3775
Fax: 215-683-6984

Courterly Editorial Board

- Len Hacking, Editor 686-3775
Len Armstrong, CP Criminal 683-7506
Charles Mapp, CP Civil 683-7401
Karen Leone, DR 686-3830
Carol Sieck, Orphans' Court 686-2207
Lori Medaglia, Traffic 686-1668
Joseph Evers, Prothonotary 686-6652
Phil Valone, Prothonotary 686-6652
Tom McGill, Esq. Jud. Staff 686-5100
Joanne Weglicki, CP Crimi 683-7287
Joseph McDermott, MC Civ 686-2975
Janet Fasy, Court Reporters 683-3000
Don Varley, Data Processing 683-6978
Archie Epperson, Adult Prob.683-1401

Lifesaver Volunteers

(Lifesavers Continued from page 3)

- Colleen McGrath
Gurnell Williams
Kelly Hammer
Ralph Silvestri
Nyckolaus Wellem
Rebecca Kline
Louise Carpino
Cynthia Giacobetti
Darlene Miller
Michael Lanzalotti
Robert Busillo
Anthony Erace
Kate Somerville
Anthony Sasselli
James Owens
Mathew Market
Yolanda McFadden
Sharon Pressley
Shawn Brown
Dominic Richetti
Frank DeFrancesco
Joseph Nocella
Gladys Cruz Velazquez
Danielle Alexander
Juanita Copeland

Least Competent Criminals

Not Cut Out for a Life of Crime: Three men who police say stole a car in San Jose, Calif., in October and drove it to Chico, Calif., were arrested in Chico when police caught them trying to break into that same car because they had locked the keys inside (or thought they had, since Chico Officer Jose Lara said he found the keys in one of the men's pockets, after all). [Chico Enterprise-Record, 11-4-05] [The Buffalo News, 1-13-06]

New Courtroom Quotes

Lawyer: "What happened then?"
Witness: "He told me, he says, 'I have to kill you because you can identify me.'"
Lawyer: "Did he kill you?"
Witness: "No."
Lawyer: "Now sir, I'm sure you are an intelligent and honest man--"
Witness: "Thank you. If I weren't under oath, I'd return the compliment."
Lawyer: "Do you have any children or anything of that kind?"
Lawyer: "Have you lived in this town all your life?"
Witness: "Not yet."
Lawyer: (realizing he was on the verge of asking a stupid question) "Your Honor, I'd like to strike the next question."

Lawyer: "You were there until the time you left, is that true?"
Lawyer: "Doctor, did you say he was shot in the woods?"
Witness: "No, I said he was shot in the lumbar region."
Lawyer: "So you were gone until you returned?"
Lawyer: "What is your marital status?"
Witness: "Fair."
Lawyer: "Were you alone or by yourself?"
Lawyer: "Were you present in court this morning when you were sworn in?"

