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JANUARY 2017



Out with the Old and In with the New

by Nina Ritson

After years of planning and acres of blueprints and schematics, on November 11 the first group of DAS employees relocated from their offices at 165 Capitol Avenue to the 15th floor of 450 Columbus Boulevard. Employees spent months purging, weeks packing and final hours preparing and labeling their boxes and equipment for the long-awaited move.

Over a five week stretch beginning November 11, groups of scheduled employees shut down their computers at 165 Capitol and left their offices for the last time. The movers began transporting the contents of their cubicles to their new quarters followed by the IT team, who came in over weekends to hook up all the computers, scanners, copiers and printers and double check that

everyone was up and running for their return to work on Monday.

Surprisingly -- it worked quite well with very few issues!

On consecutive Mondays, greeters Dave Grigely, Don Poulin, Diane Dalo, Kerri Versteeg, Marilyn Bantz, Gina Perez, and Gary Faraci guided people into the building and along their elevator journey to their designated floors. Most were able to unpack quickly and settle into their new offices.

Week after week the teams performed this exercise and on December 5 the last DAS employees came to work in their new space. The new offices are designed in the cubicle environment with ample areas for meetings. All conference rooms are accessible from the elevators so any conference room on any floor may be booked for a meeting. The gleaming granite floors in the lobby are a refreshing upgrade from the tired dismal tile

of the former State Office Building. The cafeteria offers an expanded menu and scenic dining area - but if employees prefer, they can venture out at the plaza level to many restaurants in the area. Speaking of venturing out, there are walking trails along the river or just walking downtown to take a break and refresh. And everyone in the building enjoys a view - no matter what side of the building they are located.

For many who spent their entire careers at 165 Capitol Avenue the move was a little tough. One - because of the purge of a lifetime of 'stuff' saved and stored at their desks. For others it was more sentimental, and the thought of leaving that grand old building and all its memories that were so familiar. But just one day at the new building changed minds quickly and after that there was no looking back!

Congratulations to Erin Choquette, Doug Moore, Carol O'Shea and Ira Henowitz who worked for over two years planning, designing and preparing for this huge undertaking along with Kevin Kerchaert and Diane Pritt with the architectural firm, Tecton. A special thank you to Jose Baez, Anna Tara, Brian Halloran and Shun Zhang for sacrificing their weekends so that we could be operational on Mondays! Brian Nicknair and Sara Branciforte from Konover, the building's property management company, have been more than helpful along with Ray Philbrick and his team of security staff who were deluged with new faces, new ID cards and new parking questions each Monday.

Thank you to all DAS employees for doing your part when the call came out to downsize and prepare for this move. Please enjoy your new offices, the many places to walk and get lunch and the view!



*Say good bye to the old.....
Although it served state
employees well for over 85
years - it was time for a major
facelift - and infrastructure
lift to keep the State Office
Building in service for many
decades to come.*



Governor Malloy Issues Drought Watch: Asks DAS Commissioner Currey for Help in Curbing Water Use in State Facilities

By John McKay



From left, Intergovernmental Policy Acting Under Secretary W. David LeVasseur, Governor Malloy, New Britain Mayor Erin Stewart and DAS Commissioner Melody Currey.

In October, Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced that in response to the decision made by the Connecticut Interagency Drought Workgroup to issue the state's first-ever Drought Watch, he is advising residents to be mindful of their water consumption and to limit unnecessary water usage when possible.

"After three years of precipitation shortfalls, we are moving to a Drought Watch and it would be extremely helpful if residents could be mindful of their water consumption and take sensible steps to help stretch our water supply," Governor Malloy said.

Standing next to Governor Malloy was our own DAS Commissioner Currey. The Governor has directed the Connecticut Department of Administrative Services to review and implement areas where water usage among state government facilities can be reduced wherever possible.

"This is a very common sense approach to conserving water in our state managed facilities," said Commissioner Currey. "And like a very familiar phrase that is used, if you see something, say something. Every dripping

faucet or leaking pipe should be examined to see where water conservation can happen."

Managers' Day

State managers gathered to enjoy their annual luncheon once again on September 30 at the Aqua Turf restaurant. In addition to a wonderful menu managers gained insight thanks to the presentations of many speakers. State Comptroller Kevin Lembo gave praise to the states managerial workforce and encouraged creativity and perseverance even in these challenging times.

Although several managers received recognition, the true winners of the day were the many children and teenagers who received backpacks filled with supplies at Christian Community Action! And donations raised went toward their programs: Hillside Family Shelter, Stepping Stones Transitional Housing, Neighborhood Assistance, and Advocacy for Education.



*Top left: Comptroller Kevin Lembo addresses managers with words of praise;
Top right: MAC Members presents the totals for the 2016 Macpack Initiative.*

Quinnebaug Valley Community College

Ribbon-cutting by Jeff Beckham

DAS Construction Services (DCS) celebrated the completion of Quinnebaug Valley Community College's (QVCC) Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at a ribbon-cutting on September 30. The project was the latest in a series of successful projects that DCS has completed in its ongoing partnership with the State's Colleges and Universities.

The school's manufacturing program, now in its fourth year, previously ran out of rented space at Danielson's Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School. The \$4.8 million dedicated space on the college's grounds will allow students a state-of-the-art learning environment tailored to their needs. Several state and federal dignitaries were on hand at the ceremony, all of whom praised the new center as being on the cutting edge of Connecticut's manufacturing landscape. With recent commitments that the State's defense contractors have made to remaining in Connecticut, programs like those at the community colleges are integral to maintaining the state's competitiveness in creating and retaining these unique manufacturing jobs.

Completed this past summer, the 10,000-square-foot facility houses the College's programs in advanced manufacturing machine technology, lean manufacturing, supply chain management, mechatronics, and metrology.

The facility was designed by Silver/Petrucci & Associates Architects and features classrooms, offices, conference space, labs for mechatronics and metrology, a tool crib, machine shop and mechanical and IT rooms. The center will use the latest in manufacturing technology, is LEED-certified Silver and has a geothermal HVAC system.



Fairfield Regional Fire School holds 'topping off' ceremony with DAS' Division of Construction Services

By John McKay

The Fairfield Regional Fire School held a "Topping Off" Ceremony in October along with DAS' Division of Construction Services. Members of the Fairfield fire department and state and town officials participated and signed their names to a massive steel beam. In building construction terminology, a "topping off" is a builder's tradition when the final beam is placed on a structure during its construction.

The new facility will include a 9,217 square foot administration and education facility, equipment bays and maintenance area, a Class "A" Burn building, a car fire prop, and a vehicle extrication pad. These improvements, along with the existing resources, will offer first responders a substantial training facility for the region.



October Was Disability Employment Awareness Month

By Jeff Beckham



As the Governor's ADA coordinator for the Executive Branch, Commissioner Currey participates in the Governor's Committee on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities. In October the Committee marked National Disability Employment Awareness Month with a ceremony at the Walgreens Distribution Center in Windsor to inspire awareness of the nationwide campaign.

Governor Malloy was on hand, along with Jonathan Slifka, the Governor's Liaison to the Disability Community, to celebrate the important role that persons with disabilities play in the workforce.

"Connecticut has a diverse and talented labor force, and that includes the skills and experience that persons with disabilities provide. Nobody should be excluded from the workplace because of a disability – employers can benefit greatly from celebrating the diversity that our workforce offers,"

Governor Malloy said. "We celebrate and honor all Connecticut's employers who continue to foster a culture within their businesses that embraces individual differences, including disabilities, because inclusion benefits everyone, and makes us stronger and more competitive."

Throughout the month, advocates used the hashtag #InclusionWorks – the theme of this year's national campaign – on social media in order to share the many ways that "inclusion works" in the workplace.

Slifka said, "Governor Malloy understands the challenges faced by members of the disability community. On behalf of his administration, we continue to work for policies that ensure the inclusion of all people – no matter their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability."

The ceremony was held at the Walgreen's Distribution Center in Windsor because that company remains a valued partner in workplace inclusion. Today, over 30 percent of the employees who work at the distribution center have a disability.

"Walgreen's Windsor Connecticut Distribution Center exceeds our national goal of having 20 percent of jobs for people with disabilities," Joe Wendover, Field Inclusion Manager for Walgreens, said. "While efficiency is key at every Walgreen's Distribution Center, so is opportunity."

State government remains a partner in celebrating workforce diversity among its own employees and providing for reasonable accommodation of our employees who may have a disability is a fundamental principle in assuring that diversity.

Golf Tournament October 7



***FIRST PLACE WINNERS:**

Shot Gun Start, Win by the amount of points
James Fournier, Steve Manolla, Scott Matava and Mike Merek

***LONGEST DRIVE MEN & WOMEN:**

Mary Yabrosky and Mark Donahue

***2 CLOSEST TO THE PIN 50/50:**

#9 Jack Korduner #12 Scott Matava

This was a fun day for all and it raised \$1,583 for the Campaign for Charitable Giving!

Check Presentation

On November 2, Commissioner Melody Currey, Deputy Commissioners Toni Fatone, Bud Salemi and Mark Raymond along with Pam Perrin, chairperson of the Golf Tournament, presented a check to the Campaign for Charitable Giving in the amount of \$1,583.



Hot Dog Fundraiser October 19, 2016



Josh Scollins, Chairperson of this event, reported that the Hot Dog fundraiser held October 19 not only SOLD OUT but yielded a donation of \$262 to the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center!

Congratulations!



Some Impressive Fundraising Totals!

GOLF TOURNAMENT - ***\$1,583 raised***

FRANKIE'S HOT DOG Fundraiser - ***\$262 raised***

PINK Fundraiser for Breast Cancer ***\$610 raised***

PIE Fundraiser - ***\$360 raised***

Fundraiser at 55 Farmington Avenue - ***\$311.07 raised***
from TechniArt Vendor

DAS TOTAL AS LISTED ON CSEC WEBSITE INCLUDING ON LINE DONATIONS \$14,060.07

DAS Affirmative Action Plan Approved

by Alicia Nuñez

DAS is pleased to announce that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities approved the 2016 DAS Affirmative Action Plan at its November 9, 2016 meeting.

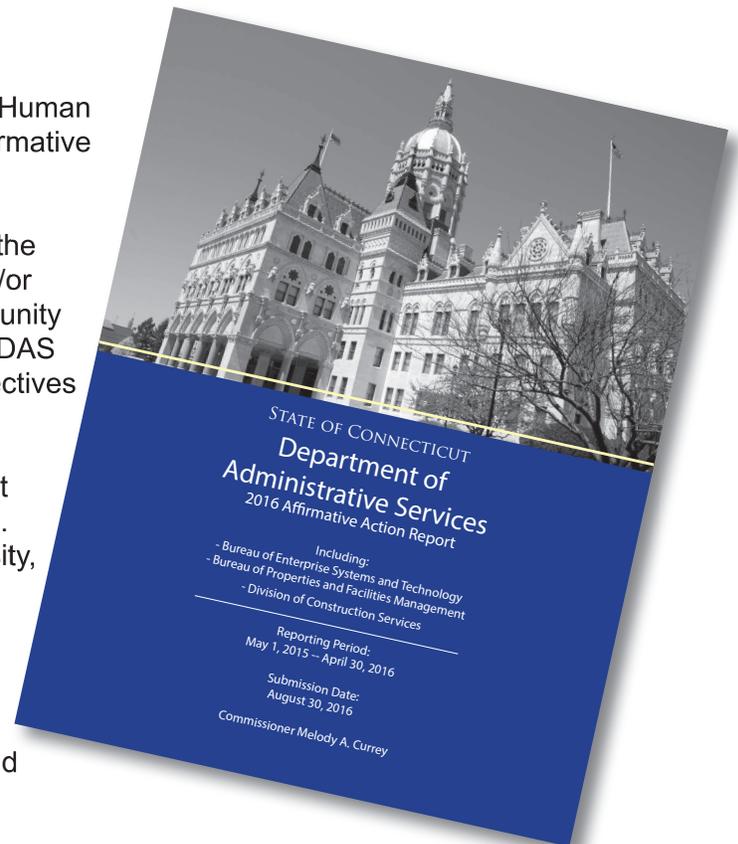
A hard copy of the plan is available for your review in the Human Resources Office, Commissioner's Office and/or by contacting the agency's Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Alicia Nuñez. Also for review are the current DAS Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Summary of Objectives and the Discrimination Complaint Process.

The Affirmative Action Plan is a comprehensive look at DAS and its employment processes and opportunities. The plan illustrates the Department's workforce diversity, hiring and promotion procedures, and career mobility services offered by DAS.

Alicia expresses her thanks to the SMART Team; Statewide Human Resources; Supplier Diversity, the Business Office and Communications for their time and contributions to the plan.

"It's an incredibly informative document and it takes many hands from throughout DAS to put it together. Thank you again for your time and efforts in assembling another successful Affirmative Action plan," said Nuñez.

All employees and managers are encouraged to review the plan and submit any comments, suggestions, or questions to Alicia Nuñez, Equal Employment Opportunity Director at (860) 713-5317 or alicia.nunez@ct.gov.



NCCC Breaks Ground for the New Joyner Library

by Nina Ritson

On Thursday, October 13 the groundbreaking for the new Joyner Hall at Northwestern Connecticut Community College took place. This new facility will add to the historically attractive campus in Winsted. It will house the education of Veterinary Technicians and Healthcare students and become a tremendous resource for not only the college but the Northwest area.

Mark Ojakian, President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system, said he is “excited because Winsted is his second home!” He then shared a story about how hard retiring Representative Roberta Willis worked to push for this project. Repeating her words, he said, “Enough is enough! If it was not for her tenacity we would not be standing here today. Rep. Willis responded, “I come here today as an alum of this great institution and I took several classes right up at the Joyner Hall which was actually a converted First National grocery store. In the next 10 years 70% of the population must have some sort of post secondary education to be marketable. Students will benefit from the programs and be able to build careers and sustain families here in the Northwest corner.”

Deputy Commissioner Salemi said, “I would like to thank everyone who worked on this project. Thanks to Jeff Bianco and Downes Construction, who played a huge role working with Project Manager Barbara Cosgrove, Lawrence Brunoli, Inc. who has been building state buildings for years and to Barbara for keeping this project alive and making it happen.”

With that the shovels hit the dirt and the construction was officially underway for the new Joyner Health Center. In actuality – construction is moving along nicely and the building is taking shape to be a prominent edifice as travelers enter the Northwest from Route 8.



(Above) Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi joined fellow dignitaries to “officially” launch the building of the new Joyner Hall at Northwestern Connecticut Community College.



(Right) Mark Ojakian, President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system praises many years of efforts from legislators and local leaders to build this library.

Governor Malloy and DAS Deputy Commissioner Salemi break ground on Willard-DiLoreto renovation project at CCSU

by John McKay

In November, Governor Malloy and DAS Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi broke ground on the Willard-DiLoreto renovation project at Central Connecticut State University.

“This renovation is a central part in the social, cultural and economic development of the University,” said incoming President Zulma R. Toro. “With 90 percent of students coming from Connecticut, and staying in the state, these projects are key to ensure a national presence and students receive services that facilitate success.”

The project will renovate the approximate 60,000 Gross square feet of the fourth floor and basement of Willard Hall and approximate 45,000 gross square feet of the fourth floor DiLoreto Hall and create and approximate 35,000 connection structure joining the two buildings.

Four academic departments, 20 classrooms, 10 to 15 faculty rooms, and a grand common area will be added, as well as student administrative services.



Power to Pink

by Nina Ritson



As many of you are aware October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Breast Cancer has affected so many of us in such a way that no one is spared.

On Wednesday, October 26 DAS/ CSEC sponsored a Power to Pink fundraiser to benefit the Breast Cancer Research and Assistance Fund.

CSEC Coordinator Julie Bernosky along with the CSEC Committee for DAS joined DAS employees wearing pink and made a donation to support the cause.

DAS wanted to raise \$500, but exceeded expectations by raising \$632!



Congratulations to Julie Bernosky and her team:

Erika Carcano
Angela Gelineau
Josh Scollins
Deb Atkinson
Aleshia Hall
Dean Myshrall

Top: Employees at 165 Capitol Avenue dressed in pink and gathered for probably the last group photo taken at the old State Office Building while employees at 55 Farmington (above) wore pink for Breast Cancer Awareness.

Turkey Results

by John McKay



Left to right: Jane Murdock from the Dept of Agriculture, Jerry Lynn, Mike Felix and the Foodshare Driver, Gary.

The 2016 Turkey Drive proved to be a challenge because many of the tenants of 165 Capitol Avenue had already moved to Columbus Boulevard. Still the Turkey team managed to pull together impressive numbers for needy families in the area. Great job!

And now that we are co-located with the tenants in the South Tower at 450 Columbus -- watch out for next year's turkeys!

2016 -- 22ND ANNUAL TURKEY DRIVE				
Day	Turkeys	Cash	Checks	Cash/Checks Combined
Friday, 11/18/16	60	\$501.13	\$1,590.00	\$2,091.13
Monday, 11/21/16	59	\$735.00	\$1,175.00	\$1,910.00
TOTALS:	119	\$1,236.13	\$2,765.00	\$4,001.13

23-Year Accumulated Totals			
Turkeys	Cash	Checks	Cash/Checks Combined
4,525	\$11,902.17	\$30,819.69	\$42,721.86

People are talking.....

by Cindy Rusczyk

Mary Ellen Norton from the Workers' Compensation Commission wanted "to take this opportunity to say thanks for sending **Sammy Thompson** to our district to pick up mail. He is so polite and professional and always has a smile on his face. I recently had bulletins delivered via inter office mail and not only did he bring them in, he stacked them for me as well. He goes above and beyond the call of duty. It is a pleasure to see him on a daily basis with his fun sense of humor and always a kind word for everyone in the office. He brightens our day!"

Commissioner Kevin Sullivan from the Department of Revenue Services sent Mark Raymond a message of praise for his employees and indicated that "while traveling, I could not log in on my DRS laptop. Turns out there were some major problems. However, two of the BEST 24/7 tech support folks hung in there with me for a very extended period of time on a weekend night until it was resolved. **Sharon Davis** and **Paul Martin** were great!"

Angela Fuggetta of DAS Mail and Courier received a note from Chris of the Judicial System. "Good luck with your surgery and thank you for all your excellent service. You are the best!"

CSEC Director Jan Gwudz sent a message of "sincerest thanks to everyone in the **DAS Central Mail office**. "Recently my assistant Joyce and I sent a box of goodies to **Mike Guimond and the courier staff** to thank them for all that the couriers are doing to deliver inter office envelopes to a state agency in Norwich so we don't have to travel to Hartford to pick up pledges. As a result of this THANK YOU box, Mike and I had a phone conversation. I told him that I have met **Andrew Seegobin** at one of his state agency stops, or run into him at the state agency where I normally pick up envelopes. Andrew is always gracious and a true gentleman. The first time I met him I had several packages to give to him. He wanted me to step aside so he could unload the trunk of my car. I hardly have a door to a building or business held for me any more so to have Andrew insist that he unload my car was a wonderful and kind gesture. No matter when I see Andrew he always greets me with a smile. It is so refreshing to know someone who has such a positive outlook on life. I would be remiss if I did not mention how terrific all the other couriers are that I have met. **Alex Caceres** is not only a great secretary, as he always takes detailed messages that I leave for Mike, but he also has a terrific sense of humor. **Angela Fuggetta** is also very pleasant and goes the extra mile. When we had a pile of boxes that needed to go back to the mail room to be sorted she said it was not an issue to

Each issue we publish letters of praise that we have received about DAS employees going above and beyond. If you have received great service or would like to write about a DAS employee going the extra mile, email Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov Don't be shy - good work deserves a good word- DAS employees are the best!

take them all. Joyce and I were thinking that she would split the pile up and take one group one day and the remainder the next day. And of course, Mike Guimond is 'Mr. Accommodating.' He ALWAYS makes sure that we are satisfied with the deliveries and that if we inquire about a certain package he follows up a few days later to make sure that we received it. Sorry to be so long winded but I am thrilled to be able to work with such a terrific group of people!"

Bernard Odonnell from BEST sent Nina Ritson a message to let her know that he is "working with DESPP on the nationwide FirstNet project to bring public safety grade, mission critical wireless broadband services to all first responders and part of each state/territory's role is education and outreach to stakeholders. Some recent printing that Bob Drozynski of DESPP had done by the **DAS Print Shop** earned rave reviews. Bob told me last week that he was VERY impressed with the quality, price and turnaround time of the request."

Bob Drozynski from DESPP expressed to William Hackett of DESPP and Bernard O'Donnell of BEST that "the latest version of the SLIGP handouts were printed very promptly and professionally by the DAS Print Shop on Trinity Street. **Mike Guimond** was very helpful in getting this done."

Don Poulin sent a message to Nina Ritson "to share with you how incredibly helpful **Mike Guimond** was today. We're out of moving labels and were desperate. I went to the Print Shop to obtain some plain color copies to get us through the next wave. What Mike did was an incredible life saver; he scanned the original label and printed this image onto label stock and trimmed these down to size for us. I can't begin to tell you how incredibly helpful this is going to be for us here. A huge help; huge."

Nina Ritson would like to thank **Chris Lonardo** of DCS for all his help with the mail during the move transition to 450 Columbus. "He saw me struggling with trying to locate units and took the initiative to be most helpful by taking all of the packages and mail related to DCS and delivering, as well as becoming a central pickup point while we were in transition before the DAS Business Office could move in. Thank you!"



Christopher Lonardo



Brian Mitchell



Rahul Abraham



Lawrence LaPlant



Betheona Guiles-Smith



James Capella



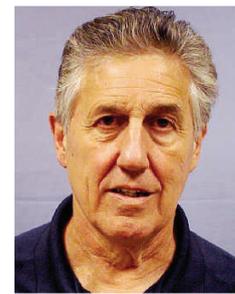
Donatella Forbes



Kristen Pepin



Cindé Mabry



Michael Gilbertie



Donna M. Wadhams



Bryan Bowser

COMINGS and GOINGS

NEW EMPLOYEES

Christopher Lonardo – DCS
 Brian Mitchell – DCS
 Rahul Abraham – DCS
 Lawrence LaPlant – Fleet Operations
 Betheona Guiles-Smith – DCS
 Donatella Forbes - BEST
 Kristin Pepin - SmART

RETIREMENTS

James Capella, DCS – January
 Cindé Mabry – Collection Services – January
 Michael Gilbertie – DCS – January
 Donna M. Wadhams – Collection Services – January
 Katarzyna Fudacz – Properties and Facilities Management –The Executive Residence – January 1
 Bryan Bowser – Properties and Facilities Management - January 1

Hello to Our New Employees



Clockwise with Commissioner Currey
Kristin Pepin
Brian Mitchell
Rahul Abraham
Betheona Guiles-Smith
Lawrence LaPlant
Donatella Forbes

A Fond Farewell To Our Recent DAS Retirees!!



Michael Gilbertie



James Capella



Cindé Mabry



Donna M. Wadhams

A Holiday Tradition Begins!

With a new building come some new traditions. The Columbus Boulevard Carolers put on a holiday concert in the lobby of our building signing a number of popular holiday songs. There were some solos and group performances along with some nice dancing moves.

The Carolers are: Jocelyn Brion, Jean Davis, State Property Review Board's Mary Goodhouse, Marcelle Groves, Margaret Hill, Peggy Jiantonio, Bille McCrore, Lagwana McMullen, Sandy Pavlowski, Anna Marie Principato, Moe Provencher, Lynn Robinson, DAS' Marie Rosales, Schenelle Saltibus, Kimberly Smith, Marjorie Terry and Mitch Wallace.



Holiday Party

and Breakfast with the Commissioner













