



Sold!

By Donna Micklus

August was a blockbuster month for DAS Fleet and Surplus.

With a Saturday, August 15 surplus vehicle auction scheduled, Governor M. Jodi Rell invited the press to the Wethersfield location as she dropped by on a drizzly Friday to look over the 223 vehicles scheduled for the auction block.

A full contingent of print and electronic media coverage generated a huge amount of public interest and publicity.

After the auction, Governor Rell said, "We broke a record on Saturday. Our vehicle auctions usually draw about 275 bidders, but 529 registrants came out this weekend to bid on and purchase cars and trucks. All of those winning bids ended up saving Connecticut taxpayers over a half a million dollars."

Commissioner Brenda Sisco said the auction raised \$510,800.

Who bids at vehicle auctions? Actually, all sorts of people, from families looking for a second car for a son or daughter, to a single parent who needs a vehicle for work, to a recent college graduate.

Back in February, Governor Rell issued Executive Order 22, mandating the state fleet be reduced by 20%. The majority of vehicles auctioned were those turned in as a result of the Governor's directive.

Generally, older, higher mileage vehicles were auctioned, while newer, lower mile-



Governor M. Jodi Rell and Commissioner Brenda Sisco inspect Fleet vehicles going up for auction. Below: They respond to questions from reporters.



age vehicles were redeployed to agencies to replace some of the turn-ins.

The Governor announced just prior to the August auction that DAS Fleet exceeded the 20% goal, reducing its numbers by 820 and saving more than \$1 million.

Inside this Issue

Wanted!

2

Kudos!

3

Meet
Fleet!

4

Workers'
Comp

6

Stand Down

7

Surplus,
Collections,
Fleet news

8

Welcome!

9

Summer
Close out

10

Wanted...

One is your average help wanted ad!

Executive recruitment is a lot more sophisticated in the State of Connecticut...with the DAS touch.

Patsy McLaughlin, Manager of Recruitment, is very pleased with the collaborative effort with DAS Communications in conducting the national search for the DEP Commissioner and DMHAS Commissioner.

"I especially want to recognize and thank Deputy Commissioner Martin Anderson for his vision and willingness to consider a departure from the standard, uninspiring recruitment ads that are so familiar in state government. He recognized our need to compete with the private sector for talent at the executive level."

McLaughlin values good design and noted, "Unfortunately, government does not always understand or appreciate the importance of creating appealing recruitment advertising, in selling the job and the agency to the public. And when trying to attract top notch employees, we are competing with private sector companies who **DO** know the importance of using sophisticated well-designed recruitment advertising to attract the best and the brightest or the best qualified."

McLaughlin also spoke enthusiastically about the cost savings. "In the past, these two commissioner positions would have cost between \$60,000—\$80,000 using national newspapers. Now, thanks to the use of Internet technology and some savvy targeting to specific associations and professional groups, the entire recruitment for BOTH the DEP and the DMHAS commissioner was only \$550.

DAS was able to compete for the best-qualified candidates in the marketplace at little or no cost to the agency and taxpayers —a welcomed outcome in this economic climate. And the results were very impressive!

"Without exaggeration, the two commissioner recruitments attracted the largest pool of qualified executive talent to date, and I'm sure it was because of the beautiful presentation DAS rolled out to represent our state and these executive level positions."

The new recruitment ads received comments from several executives who applied for the position(s), stating "the ad was so compelling they could not pass up the opportunity to explore the position."

She laughed and said, "Outgoing DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy was so impressed with the ad and how we represented her position and the agency, she said, "Wow, maybe I should apply for the job!"

"Working with Nina Ritson of DAS Communications, a new milestone was reached- a well-designed, visually attractive inviting ad that will be a benchmark for future executive level recruitments. The results were amazing. DAS is so fortunate to have Nina, a gifted graphic designer with the skills and talent to turn job text into a work of art. She did an amazing job!"

-Patsy McLaughlin

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M. Jodi Rell Governor

Brenda L. Sisco Commissioner

Donna J. Micklus Editor

Visit our website at www.das.state.ct.us

Governor M. Jodi Rell sent the following message to Commissioner Sisco and Deputy Commissioner Anderson to extend her sincere thanks “to all of the **DAS folks** who worked so hard to make Saturday’s auto auction such a tremendous success!!! From collecting cars from agencies to getting them ready for Saturday and making sure the auction itself ran well, your employees did an outstanding job. Way to go DAS!”

Catherine A. Kennelly, Chief Administrative Officer from DPH, messaged Steve Caliendo regard-

to you. During that time, and as recently as this week, you have always provided me with the information requested in a timely manner. I appreciate the courtesy and cooperation you have given me, and I feel that it should be recognized! I’m sure the consolidation of Payroll, Personnel, and Business Office functions of a number of agencies has been a challenge for you / DAS, as it has been for us. You have made it a smoother process.”

Steve Caliendo also applauded **Noel Pinnock**: “I’m pleased to know of your assistance to the Auditors, but not surprised that you extended to the auditors the same courtesy

and cooperation that you have consistently given to everyone in SmART. Please know that we all are very appreciative of the work you do, and the manner in which you do it. Thanks so much.”

Commissioner Brenda Sisco also commended **Noel**: “It’s always great to see notes of thanks from folks who acknowledge and appreciate the work DAS employees do for them – sometimes way above and beyond. Clearly you have set an example of cooperation, hard work and courtesy. I think that’s what DAS is all about. Thanks for doing such a good job, Noel. Well-deserved kudos from the Auditors!!!”

Erin Choquette sent a kudo to Commissioner Sisco, Deputy Commissioner Anderson, Fleet Director Frank Sanzo and (then)

MIS Director Rick Miarecki recognizing **Ed Kane**. “As we finish up the fleet project (this phase at least), I would be remiss if I failed to tell you what a wonderful job Ed has done throughout – from creating the agency surveys to setting up the database to designing and running report after report after report. His expertise, patience and good humor have been invaluable! Special thanks are also owed to **Donna Camillone** for her willingness to jump in and help out while Ed was away.”

Deputy Commissioner Anderson also sends kudos to **Ed Kane** as “he has been great and eager to get us exactly what we are needing!!! Thanks.”

DPW Commissioner Raeanne Curtis applauded **Heather Tweedale** “for all of the tedious work you have put into helping us with job specifications, changes, exam announcements and keeping track of the many details that are involved. It would be impossible to achieve all of these changes without someone like you who can efficiently and quickly get it all done, enabling our agency to smoothly go through our transitions. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate the services you have provided to us.”

To **Governor M. Jodi Rell, Commissioner Sisco, Carol Wilson, Tina Costanzo, Carlos Velez, Meg Yetishefsky** and all **Procurement Staff** from Ruthie Hatten: “It has been a pleasure to serve DAS and all the consumers I have come in contact with through the years. Thanks to all of

HATS OFF!

By *Cindy Rusczyk*

ing **Amanda Anduaga-Roberson**: “I want you to know how much I appreciate working with Amanda. She is totally dedicated to affirmative action and is hard-working, articulate, and a total professional. I know that our plan is a real challenge, but she has approached it with enthusiasm and competence. Amanda will have her initial meeting with the Executive Leadership Team next week, and I look forward to other members of the team meeting her and realizing what a valuable asset she is to us.”

Associate Auditor Mark Fortin from the Auditors of Public Accounts praised **Noel Pinnock** for his assistance. “Over the last year I have submitted a number of requests for audit information

Continued on page 5

UP CLOSE

With Pam Bowe and Al Landry

By Nina Ritson

When you enter Room 483, the DAS Fleet Operations office at 165 Capitol Ave., you are greeted by a bevy of sweets – a huge penny candy jar, Planters peanuts, salt water taffy and just as inviting – new faces, Pam Bowe and Al Landry.

After the retirement incentive rush in the spring – Fleet Operations was greatly impacted when long-time employee and central sources of knowledge, Carol Biernacki and Beverly Powers took the RIP.

New to the helm, Director Frank Sanzo called upon Pam Bowe and Al Landry to help with the period of transition and to stay on at the Fleet Office in the State Office Building.

Bowe, with 21 years of service, and Landry, with 15, bring a wealth of knowledge to the central office.

Bowe says, “I like it much better up here – I wish I had come up two years ago! I worked with Carol Biernacki for 16 years down at the Huyshope garage – so I really enjoyed the opportunity to work with her again up here.”

Bowe has been very busy trying to learn the programs and the new mileage reporting system that was implemented shortly before Carol left. On a personal side when not

at the office, Bowe enjoys her life at home with her two cats, Bud and Sunny and is envious of her boyfriend – now retired Fleet employee Bob Chausse. She also enjoys vacationing with her family up at Jiminy Peak in Northern Massachusetts – a tradition that has happened every year since her childhood!

Although she is the daughter of a professional chef, she hands the cooking reigns to Chausse with the statement, “I let him do the cooking because he wants to live a few more years.”

When Beverly Powers suddenly decided to retire, Sanzo had to replace her immediately. Landry, a garage supervisor in Wethersfield, came to the call when help was needed in the main office.

“It was a lot to learn in the beginning – but I have a good handle on this now,” says Landry who made the adjustment from dashboard to keyboard.

Not only are Landry and Bowe office neighbors – they both have



home ties to the Plainville area. Landry’s folks are Bowe’s neighbors. Now that his two daughters, Andrea and Sarah are grown and through college, he, too, enjoys the quiet life at home with his wife Lori and his adopted seven-year old miniature dachshund.

He also enjoys free time following Sprint Cup Racing or at a cottage he rents on a lake in Raymond, Maine.

**Welcome to
the State Office
Building
Pam and Al!**

you for your encouraging words and inspiration. And always remember to smile; it makes the heart rejoice. Thank you and may all of you keep well.”

Cathy Bysiewicz-Cluen commended the **Communications Office** on the June retirement issue of the DAS Times. “This is a beautiful tribute to everyone that retired. You can’t beat those grins on their faces! I very much appreciate your efforts in putting this together. Thanks.”

“Kudos to **Arlene Watson**” from Melissa Christensen “for covering my work load while I was out of the office for 12 business days. Arlene already carries a large work load and I appreciate the

You rock!!

high efforts she made to keep my desk flowing. This made for an easy return for me. Thanks again, Arlene! “

The following message was sent to Fleet Director Frank Sanzo: “I would like to pass along my compliments and gratitude to your **staff at the New Haven garage**. I recently retired from state service serving as a fraud investigator for DSS. Proper maintenance of the vehicle assigned to me was crucial to my work assignment. Supervisor **Dave Marsh** and Skill Maintainer **David Demott** always did their utmost to ensure prompt and excellent service, whether it be routine maintenance or emergency service. They, along with

their **staff of excellent technicians**, always exhibited the highest rate of professionalism and courteousness. I thank you and the staff at the New Haven garage. Respectfully, John H. Griffin.”

State employee Amy Jones sent a Fleet kudo. “I had my car serviced today at the **Norwich fleet garage** and I must say that everyone at that garage is very pleasant and they get the job done quickly and efficiently. I wish that they could work on my personal car. Over the years they have helped me out of many situations. Thanks!”

Melissa Christensen and Joe Giliberto of Procurement Services “would like to thank **Lori Smith** of MIS for her help in developing the .Net code which will allow the State Contracting Portal to communicate directly with the CoreCT Database.”

Kudos to **John McKay** from Adam Jeamel for handling a print job in-house so quickly for the Governor’s Office. “Awesome job...thanks!”

HR Administrator Vicki Arpin from DOT “would like to express” her “appreciation for the assistance of **Nick Visone, Lina Simonu**, and their **team** in accomplishing many large projects involving Core data. They worked with the DOT staff to find an efficient way to translate the power of the computer into time savings for our agency. In these times of do-

ing more with less due to the significant loss of HR staff, increasing the capacity for mass updates and broadening the use of technology to handle records/data can only heighten our efficiencies to manage other HR tasks.”

Commissioner Sisco and Deputy Commissioner Anderson sent the following message to the **Picnic Committee**: “We just wanted to let you know what a great picnic you put together. I haven’t heard anything but great and appreciative comments, and the weather and caterer you ordered were perfect. It was a job well done, and I feel bad for the employees who didn’t attend.”

Contract Specialist Kelly Blanchard from the State of Oregon commended **Don Casella** for his work on the Telephone Interpreter Services contract. “I was searching online to find what other agencies and/or states have done as far as RFP’s for telephone interpreter services and when I came across the RFP you put out, it’s fabulous!”

Surplus customer Andrew Messore sent the following words of praise to **Holly Crandall**: “I would like to express my thanks and extol the good work of Holly Crandall. She has assisted me greatly in navigating DAS Surplus from application, acceptance, to the website usage. Her passion for customer service and dedication is unsurpassed, and she is passionate about the work she does and should be a model for the state and how it operates toward customers. Thanks, Holly.”

What's New In Workers' Comp?

By Doug Rinaldi and
Nina Ritson

The State of Connecticut Workers' Compensation Program Managed Care Plan, as administered by GAB Robins, is changing the medical provider network from Coventry Health to Prime Health Services effective October 1, 2009. This change has been approved by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

"We've been taking a systematic approach to restructuring the state's Workers' Comp Program," said Doug Rinaldi, DAS Workers' Compensation Manager, "The delivery of medical services is governed by state statutes that allow for a managed care program. When we looked at the current program it was decided we needed to upgrade services and the new vendor was procured by GAB Robins."

Most of the medical providers in the current Coventry medical provider network are also members of the Prime Health network. Providers who are not in the new network are currently being contacted by Prime Health and offered the opportunity to join. Here are some commonly asked questions regarding medical provider networks.

What Does This Mean?

- For injuries occurring on or after October 1, 2009, you must select a physician within the Prime Health Services Physician Network.
- For injuries prior to October 1, 2009, you may maintain your physician relationship even if your treating physician is not in the new network.

How Do I Find A Medical Provider in The Prime Health Services Network?

Rinaldi said, "We are always striving to keep current with the ever



changing standards of the industry. This is a change and we are working toward a smooth rollout of the program."

- Visit www.das.state.ct.us/WorkersComp/WCopp.asp under Medical Provider Directory Look-up/Find a Physician or call Prime Health Services at 1-866-348-3887.

What If I Receive Treatment with a Medical Provider Not in the New Provider Network?

- If you receive treatment from a physician outside of the approved network provider directory, your claim for benefits may be denied (subject to the authority of the Workers' Compensation Commission). However, if you are referred for treatment in a specialty not included in the network directory, you may seek treatment from any provider on the list of approved

Workers' Compensation Commission providers.

What If I Need Prescription Medication?

A pharmacy benefit management program is in place to provide prescriptions ordered by the WC treating physician for a work-related injury. Injured employees requiring prescribed medications should have their prescriptions filled within a network pharmacy. The listing of network pharmacies is available by:

- Visiting the DAS Workers' Compensation web page www.das.state.ct.us/WorkersComp/WCopp.asp under *Medical Provider Directory Look-up/Find a Pharmacy*. All major chains are represented and, in total, 998 pharmacies are in the network.
- Dialing MSC/Express Scripts at 1-877-672-3340.

You will find valuable information on this website including a comprehensive employee brochure posted in the Communications section.

If you have claim-specific questions related to the change in provider networks including continuity of care or transfer of care, please contact GAB Robins at (860) 256-3400.

For further questions, please contact your agency Workers' Compensation office or DAS Workers' Compensation Program Manager Douglas Rinaldi at (860) 713-5002.

Stand Down 2009 DAS donations make a difference

By John McKay

With its kick-off at the DAS Summer Picnic, the call went out for DAS employees to donate and DAS really stepped up to the plate; employees generously donated soap, shampoo, shaving cream, socks, wash cloths, note pads, pencils and many more items.

On September 15, DAS delivered 21 boxes of supplies that were divided up into comfort kits for needy veterans.

Stand Down is a one-day outreach and support program sponsored by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, which enables needy and homeless veterans to receive goods, services and information from over 30 state, federal and private organizations all assembled in one location.

Services include medical screenings; dental exams; legal assistance and court proceedings for misdemeanors; housing referrals; assistance with Federal VA benefits and disability claims; job counseling and training information; social security and social service benefits; financial assistance

and debt counseling; higher education programs and services; mental/behavioral health counseling; motor vehicle licenses and ID cards; free haircuts; and comfort kits.

An estimated 200,000 U.S. veterans are homeless, accounting for about 25 to 30 percent of the nation's total homeless population. The Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs is the largest provider of direct services to homeless veterans in the state, providing residency to a daily average of almost 400 veterans.

Stand Down creates an environment of safety and security under which the homeless veteran can gain a renewed sense of self-respect, comradeship, and hope. It is an opportunity for the community to connect with the homeless veteran population and address this crisis that affects each and every town, city, and state in this country.

As Veterans' Affairs Director of Community Affairs Cathy Cook said, "We can always count on DAS!"



Deputy Commissioner Martin Anderson and DAS Stand Down Coordinator John McKay look over some 20+ boxes of DAS donations.

A big thank you to the Stand Down crew of Heather Berte, Maureen Blackburn, Melissa Colonese-Scutt, Kelly Dillon, Cheryl Drolet, Steve Dygus, John McKay, Deborah Peterson, Frank Sanzo, Kathy Sobieski and Mary Yabrosky, along with honorary member Peter Varhol for all their work keeping collected items accounted for and delivered.

Finding What You Need Just Got Easier

By John McKay

Why buy new when you can find a trove of “experienced” items *really* cheap...like free!

The DAS State Surplus Program has redesigned the way state agency employees can

 search for surplus items within the state’s e-surplus system.

A new web interface allows state employees to scan a list of items – anything from FAX machines, and hospital beds, to mowers and tables. All they have to do is identify the Lot Number and location of the item, and then notify their agency representative to claim the item and have it delivered.

When an item enters the system, state agencies have a total

of fourteen days to claim the product.

After the first seven days, the item becomes available to Connecticut municipalities.

After this time has elapsed, the items are screened by Clearing House Auctioneers for public auction.

DAS is piloting this new interface within its own agency. If you’re interested in claiming items, or just testing out the system, visit :

<http://www.biznet.ct.gov/pdc/login/findavailableitems.cfm>.

If you have any questions, technical issues with the site or wish to provide feedback, please contact J. Carlos Velez at (860) 713-5092.

Fleet News

By Jim Palmer

The Summer Wind - With summer in our rearview mirror, on Tuesday, September 8, the Wethersfield maintenance facility once again returned to an 8:00-4:00 schedule – the same as New Haven and Norwich.

Where in the world is Bill Hoynes? - Bill is an automotive QCW who has been with Fleet for four years. He began his state career in the Wethersfield facility, working on second shift for roughly two years before transferring to Norwich in 2007. In March 2009, Bill volunteered for a six-month assignment in the New Haven garage. Upon completing his New Haven duties, we asked him to return to Wethersfield where he is working to help inspect and repair many of the cars that were turned in as part of the 20% fleet reduction earlier this year. We appreciate Bill’s flexibility and thank him for his willingness to help.

Collections Sets Record

By John McKay

The numbers are in and they are unbelievable!

For the first time ever, Collection Services not only exceeded all previous years’ revenues, but actually surpassed the billion dollar mark -- the actual number is just shy of \$1.6 BILLION in paid claims!

Collections Acting Director JoAnn Figueiredo thanked all her staff in an email saying, “During a time when we are being asked to do more with less, Collection staff have found ways to succeed in spite of the challenges. Even without the positive rate adjustments, we still would have exceeded last year’s total by more than \$93 Million! A combination of implementing more efficient ways of receiving and processing billing data, as well as just plain hard work on your part, have made this possible.”

Figueiredo went on to say, “Also sharing in this year’s success are our partner agencies and our DAS co-workers - especially MIS and Central Accounting who work with us and support us every day. Thanks and congratulations to all on a job well done. Your effort and dedication are appreciated and really do make a difference to the State of Connecticut.”



Comings and Goings

Four employees at Core-CT recently transferred to DAS from Office of the State Comptroller and DOIT. They continue to work in the East Hartford DOIT offices. We welcome them into the DAS fold!



Angela Choinski comes to DAS from the Comptroller's Office



Mary Rice moves over from DOIT



Shelly Mosig is formally of the Comptroller's Office



Denise Phuong joins us from DOIT

GETTING (Connecti) FIT

July marked the end of the most recent CTFIT program “Capitol Ave. to the Capitol” walking program.

The premise was for teams of DAS employees to walk the distance between the Connecticut State Capitol and the Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Organizer Peggy Zabawar called the program a “huge success.”

She also noted that tracking numbers increased near the end of the program whereas in the past, a program may lose some of its steam and numbers tend to decrease.

Zabawar announced the upcoming CTFIT fall event “Ready, Set Lose.”

A weight loss program loosely based on the hit TV Show, “The Biggest Loser.”

Because of the number of CTFIT programs run by DAS, the agency is in the process of becoming American Heart Association certified as a “Fit, Friendly Staff.” A national recognition bestowed on companies that encourage – and have results – related to employee wellness.

Michelle Nicholson, a representative from the American Heart Association, gave an overview of October’s AHA Heart Walk. She covered everything from signing up to organizing a team and more.



The event had two nurses on hand to take blood pressure readings along with James the trainer who runs workout classes in the State Office Building.

Play Ball!

It was classic Yankees vs. Red Sox ...but with even more smack talk!

Procurement’s Mark Carroza was coaching the South Windsor 15-year-old Babe Ruth baseball team in the regional semi-finals. In the other dugout was HR’s Ray Bailey coaching the opposing West Hartford team.

“I didn’t know it was Ray until about 24-hours before the game,” said Carroza, “What were the chances?”

Carroza went on to say he knew he had his work cut out for him. “We only have a few weeks to work with these kids in this particular tournament, and Ray knows

baseball and he knows coaching.”

The game was back and forth until an eighth inning throwing error eventually decided the game and Bailey’s guys were the victors.

“I tried to motivate my team by explaining how important bragging rights at work were,” said Carroza. “Guess it didn’t work,” he joked.

Bailey had nothing but praise for the South Windsor team.

“The young man who pitched for South Windsor did a great job until he was undone by a couple of errors. My team took advantage of those errors, and I had probably one of the top three pitchers in the tournament; that young man came in and closed the door.”

The game was also a family affair according to Ray. “Mark’s team was well-schooled, disci-

plined. Mark’s son played a great game and made the defensive play of the game with an over-the-head catch at second base. I, however, had to play without my one power hitter on our team, my own son who, unfortunately, was at a Red Sox game. I must say, though, there are no winners when you beat a friend. In 17 years of coaching, that was the first victory I can honestly say I did not enjoy.”



Ed. Note: As we are about to move into post-season play in the American and National Leagues....GO YANKS!

Continued on next page

Summer, continued.....By John McKay

Not Exactly A Pro-Am, But It Was Fun!

Fore! Six...eight...ten...!

DAS hosted its annual golf outing to benefit the CT State Employee Campaign for Charitable Giving.

The event was held at the Portland Golf Course on Friday, August 28, and included 18 holes of golf, a cart, and a box lunch including grinders, chips, soda and water and a generous donation to the State Employee Campaign.

Contest winners for the longest drive (men) was Louie Bombaci (DPW), women's longest drive was Nancy Jones (DAS), closest to the pin Steve Boyle (DPW) and Mark Buntion (DPW). The winning team was DPW's Bombaci Team with ten under par!

Special thanks to Fred Ondevilla, Quincy Cole, Peter Varhol, Nancy Jones, and Steve Dygus for all their help with the tournament. DAS made \$609, which will go to the Campaign and the American Cancer Society.



One Tomato, Two Tomato.....

Nothing says summer like native tomatoes as the Department of Agriculture hosted its Fifth Annual Tomato Contest in August.

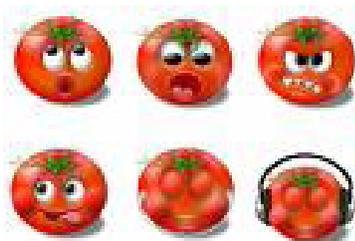
Commissioner F. Philip Prelli said, "I was worried about this contest considering all the rain we've had this season. But last year we had six entries and this year we had ten, so there's still an interest which is great."

DAS' Teresa Dupont, Susanne Hawkins, Cindy Milardo, Dave Ward, and Peggy Zabawar all entered.

But it was Susanne and Peggy who had a first-ever tie for third

place. Susanne entered cherry tomatoes and Peggy entered grape tomatoes. Both received a Department of Agriculture bag and baseball cap.

Second place went to DPW's Gail Westergren and first place went to John Farrell, Jr. also of DPW.



Bookfair- Sept. 18

DAS also held a Book Fair, sponsored by Books are Fun and Reader's Digest and raised \$112 for the Campaign for Charitable Giving.

