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JANUARY 2015

DAS TIMES

Commissioner DeFronzo Retires

by John McKay



As we have all heard by now, Commissioner Don DeFronzo will be retiring in January. Commissioner DeFronzo began the position in January 2011. He oversaw and managed the consolidation of three major state agencies and major components of two other agencies into DAS. The new agency became a wide-ranging administrative entity with responsibility for information technology in state government, design and construction of state facilities, statewide human resources, procurement of goods and services for public purposes, collection of debt owed to the state, building and fire code enforcement and school construction grants to municipalities, among many other functions.

“We’ve accomplished a lot as an agency,” said DeFronzo. Some of the agency’s achievements that he said he was especially proud of are:

- A tight budgetary discipline and recognition of the state’s budgetary constraints resulting in the lapse of over \$11.4 million in budgeted funds.
- Forty million dollars in direct savings and new revenue resulting from strengthened procurement techniques, more aggressive bidding procedures, lease consolidations, and use of new technology.
- The substantial improvement of the state’s information technology infrastructure that delivered collaborative interagency solutions throughout state government.
- The streamlining of the construction selection process and initiating over \$300 million in projects in 2014 as compared to less than \$100 million in 2010 with approximately the same number of staff.

Commissioner DeFronzo said: “I cannot praise more highly the DAS employees who have carried out the Governor’s vision and my administrative plan with such professionalism and dedication. All of the 600-plus DAS employees are a credit to state service.”

“Personally speaking this has been one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs I’ve ever had. I will miss everyone here and remember the staff of DAS as a highly motivated and professional group of hardworking people,” he said.

When asked what his plans are for retirement he said, “I don’t have any immediate plans accept to spend more time with my family and grandchildren. However, down the road, I can see myself getting involved with certain advocacy groups on topics that are important to me like open government, ethics and voting rights.

Procurement Training by John McKay

On Friday, October 24, the Department of Administrative Services Procurement office provided a professional development training event for state agencies to instill essential knowledge and improve the state's contracting processes. The event was held at Manchester Community College.

The training sessions included a full spectrum of classes including: Buying Basics, Core-CT, IT Procurement, Drafting Specifications, Supplier Diversity, P-Card Program, and the State Surplus Property Program.



The event kicked off with opening remarks from Department of Administrative Services Commissioner Donald DeFronzo and DAS Deputy Commissioner Martin Anderson, Ph.D.

Commissioner DeFronzo emphasized the ethics that state procurement personnel have shown over the years and what credit procurement personnel are to state government.

“It comes down to the people who are involved in this, it’s really only good people who are committed to the ethical process that get the job done and I want to thank you for the work you do.”

Deputy Commissioner Martin Anderson welcomed the attendees and thanked the DAS Procurement staff for putting together an event that sold out so quickly emphasizing that continuous training is always a good thing for employees.

“This was something I had been thinking about for a while, so I posed the idea to my staff,” said DAS Procurement Director Carol Wilson. “We then emailed an online survey to state agency procurement personnel to ask which topics most interest them and what type of training they needed. The agenda was compiled out of agency feedback and my staff really got excited about the event and planned everything. I think they did an amazing job from logistics, to content, to registration, marketing, and communications. It was a first class event for us.”

Also invited for opening remarks were Chief Procurement Officer Julia Marquis, and Executive Director David Guay of the State Contracting Standards Board. Each gave an overview of the purpose, goals and vision of the Contracting Standards Board.

After making her opening remarks, DAS Procurement Director Carol Wilson and DAS’ Anne Simeone then proceeded to teach Buying Basics – Procurement 101 a seminar covering how to use state contracts, when to use General Letter #71, the state’s Bid Waiver policy and an overview of online resources.

The day then opened up to various training courses on Core-CT, IT Procurement, Drafting Specification and other Procurement documents, using the state P-Card, navigating the DAS Procurement website, Supplier Diversity, the State Surplus program, and a Q & A sessions entitle “What’s Your Problem?”



DAS Affirmative Action Plan Approved by Alicia Nuñez

DAS is pleased to announce that the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities has approved the 2014 DAS Affirmative Action Plan at its November 12, 2014 meeting.

A hard copy of the plan is available for your review in the SmART Human Resources Office, Commissioner's Office and/or by contacting the agency's Equal Employment Opportunity Manager Alicia Nuñez.

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

Alicia expresses her thanks to Brenda Abele, Francine Dew, Susan Giansanti, Stan Kenton, Dave Lynn, Deb Mainville, Eileen Morin, Sue Turko, Kristine Skoczylas, Meg Yetishefsky, Jason Crisco and Peggy Zabawar 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.

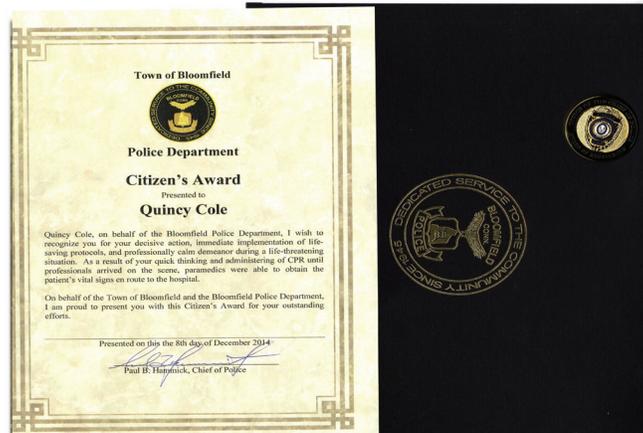
All employees and managers are encouraged to review the plan and submit any comments, suggestions, or questions to Alicia Nuñez, Equal Employment Opportunity Manager at (860)713-5317 or email Alicia.Nunez@ct.gov.

Quincy Cole, Good Samaritan by Nina Ritson

On Monday, December 8, DAS' Quincy Cole of Property Management was presented the Bloomfield Citizen's Award by the Chief of Police at a ceremony held at a meeting of Bloomfield Town Council.

"This is wonderful and exciting – we really do not give out many of these!" said Sharon Dau, chief administrative assistant to the Chief of Police before the ceremony. "Many people will be there –Town Council, the mayor and many others -and it will be televised on Bloomfield Access Television (BATV). We do not take this lightly!"

Why the award? Late last summer Quincy was at a gas station near an intersection in Bloomfield when he saw a commotion in the road. A pedestrian had been struck by a motor vehicle and people were standing in the road calling 911 and waiting for an ambulance. Quincy immediately left his car and ran to the scene and without hesitation jumped right in to administer CPR. Quincy noted, "he was a young man laying in the street and I ran there to help. Then



a woman who was a nurse joined me and we were going back taking turns to do chest compressions. The man actually gained consciousness and spoke to me. All the time cars were driving right past us in the middle of the road."

"He was able to resuscitate the victim and get vital signs as a result. He

implemented immediate life saving measures – while others were standing by waiting for an ambulance," added Ms. Dau.

Sadly, in the end the victim did succumb to his injuries. But Ms. Dau went on further to say, "This is someone you would want at the scene of an accident – sometimes all it takes is seconds to make a difference!"

"The man had a wife who was pregnant with their baby who was born after he passed. The woman came to the ceremony and allowed me to hold the baby. She said her husband would be proud." Quincy felt honored.

Congratulations and good work Quincy!

Losing the Paperweight *by John McKay*

DAS' Supplier Diversity program has been working towards a paperless system since 2013.

"I'm not going to lie to you," said DAS Supplier Diversity Program Manager Meg Yetishefsky, "It's a process." Over the past few years the Supplier Diversity Unit has gradually taken steps to move to completely paperless system.

Having the program's application process and certificate process all electronic has helped cut down on paper and time. The office is now working on taking older files, scanning them into electronic format and reducing un-needed paperwork.

"Having all of our applicant information within a contained online database helps us keep organized and up to date," said Yetishefsky. "Another bonus is that our customers can log into their accounts and make updates and modifications themselves."

"The possibility of moving to our offices to 450 Columbus is becoming a reality. We simply won't have the storage space we have here today and having a near paperless move will make the transition a lot easier," added Meg.

We Are Back! *by Teresa Dupont*

The Red Cross estimated a goal of 43 pints for the DAS drive on November 4. The final count at the end of the day was 47 pints! Way to go! Since we have lost several of our regulars due to retirement, health issues, etc., we have not made our donation pint goals the past several drives.

Thank you to our "new blood" (no pun intended) who have stepped up and joined our team! It was so wonderful to see so many new donors as well as donors who have not participated in our drives due to conflicting schedules show up on Tuesday. I hope each and every one of you feels as proud as I do of our accomplishment. Think about this... 47 pints equals saving up to 141 lives. That could be an infant, a teenager, a grandparent or anyone who was unexpectedly involved in an accident. Just think how grateful the recipient of your pint(s) of blood feel knowing blood was available when they needed it and were saved. Feel proud as you walk, you are truly doing a selfless act every time you donate.

We can't forget our donors of time and of food. It is so appreciative that you take time to run the canteen or bring in those delicious refreshments for our donors. This is truly a team effort and it takes - all involved to make our drives such a success! Thank you to each of you!

The next drive is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2015. Contact Teresa at teresa.dupont@ct.gov or 860-713-5073 to schedule an appointment or if you would like to donate your time or a food donation.

New Managers Orientation *by Nina Ritson*

On December 11, 2014 at the training campus at 61 Woodland Street DAS graduated 46 managers from the 15th New Manager's Training Program. The program ran from September 24 to December 11, 2014.



Among the graduates was DAS' own Chief Architect David Barkin (pictured at right), David Geick, IT Manager 1; and David Ruiz, IT Manager 1.

Pictured below are Diane Mazar-Roberts, (HR Consultant 3, New Managers Orientation Program Administrator) with Deputy Commissioner Dr. Martin Anderson.



To date, DAS has graduated 508 managers since the program's inception in 2006.

Pictured below: The New Managers Graduating Class.



Local Leaders Celebrate Ellis Tech Renovations

Excerpted from www.norwichbulletin.com



On June 12, 2012, various state and local leaders gathered outside Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School for a ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of an ambitious \$84 million project aimed at expanding and renovating the 53-year-old Killingly school.

On Wednesday, October 22, 2014 many of those same people dodged the rain, walked past a towering, new granite sculpture near the building's entrance and gathered inside the school's multi-purpose room to celebrate the end of major construction at the school — eight months ahead of schedule.

“It was a difficult project, trying to run a school at the same time,” said Principal Brian Mignault, Ph.D. “But this new building helps us reach our mission of achieving 100 percent student success. If I had only one wish, it would be that I’d love to come back here as a student.”

The project renovated 121,000 square feet in the school and added 72,354 more square feet. A new gymnasium, media center and community cafe were built, along with a new classroom wing. Shops were overhauled and stocked with new tools and equipment, while athletic fields, halls and floors were re-done. A steel canopy greets visitors at the main entrance.

Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman addressed the crowd at the Ellis Technical High School ribbon cutting event.

“This is all about you,” Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman said to a crowd of students at the ceremony. “You are the future leaders and have more training than most kids at high schools.”

Many of the morning's speakers recalled the building's pre-renovation years, in which indoor barrels caught dripping rain water and warped gym floorboards gave students an unusual home team advantage.

“When you dribbled a basketball, depending on where the floorboards heaved, visiting teams didn't know where the ball would end up,” Mignault said.

“The best part of this project is the morale it's added,” said Piscia, president of the student council and National Honor Society. “Before in my manufacturing shop, half the machines didn't work. Now, we have state of the art equipment, the type of tools that are being used by the companies that might employ us.”

Killingly Town Manager Sean Hendricks said schools like Ellis Tech played a big part in his decision to move into Killingly.

While addressing the audience, DAS Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi said, “I'd like to acknowledge our contractors and partners on this project

- The S/L/A/M Collaborative -from Glastonbury Somerset Square, Glastonbury
- Phase 1 of the project is The Nutmeg Companies Inc. of Norwich, CT
- Phase 2 KBE Building Corporation, Farmington, CT
- CA = O & G Industries, Torrington, CT

As you can see, we like to keep jobs in Connecticut by hiring local Connecticut companies,” he added.

Some excerpts of this article were taken from: www.norwichbulletin.com.

CSEA Kickoff by John McKay

In October, DAS kicked off the annual State Employee Campaign for Charitable Giving with three separate informational sessions throughout the agency.



On October 10, the DAS at 165 Capitol Avenue held two sessions for DAS Central Employees and the Division of Construction Services employees; On October 15 another session was held at the 55 Farmington Avenue location for DAS BEST employees.

Each session had various speakers including Comptroller Kevin Lembo and representatives from organizations which benefit from the campaign. There were representatives from Fidelco Guide Dogs and Doctors without Borders, Labs4Rescue, Bridge Family Center and Food Share to give an overview of their mission and how donations help their organization.

To boost attendance and interest in the campaign any employee who turned in their pledge card before the kickoff was entered into a drawing for one of the many prizes.

So far DAS has approximately 86 donors raising \$17,408.94.

It's never too late to fill out a pledge card. For just \$0.07 cents a day (\$1.00 per pay period) you can help support a variety of Health, Research, Environmental, Educational, Animal, Hunger, Homeless & Military programs. We will continue to accept pledge cards for either pay roll deductions or onetime gifts until March 2015. Payroll deductions will be based on the amount of pay periods left in the 2015 calendar year depending on when the cards are submitted.

For a Directory of Charities, please use the link below:

http://www.ct.gov/csec/lib/csec/2014_Directory_for_web_posting_july_28.pdf

To download a CSEC Pledge Card, please use the link below:

http://www.ct.gov/csec/lib/csec/Pledge_Card__2014.pdf

All questions should be forwarded to Kelly.Dillon@ct.gov.

Food Truck Explosion

by Nina Ritson

No DAS is not going into the business of action flicks! But following the massive and deadly explosion of a Philadelphia lunch truck earlier this summer, DAS State Fire Marshal Bill Abbott was contacted directly by Larry Posner of the nightly

several bystanders (with drones taking video) were there to witness the event. "We actually blew it up three times and the third was a charm!" said Abbott, "our event was a little different than the Philly explosion because actual liquid propane is what ignited in Philly where

as we let propane vapor leak into our truck. Consequently the explosion was much greater with the liquid propane." In video access from Inside Edition - the explosion was so powerful mannequins are seen being propelled from inside the truck.

Bill noted "everyone was very pleased with the results."



news magazine, *Inside Edition*. "They wanted to demonstrate what happened when a propane leak into a food truck was accidentally ignited, Bill said. "Would the Office of the State Fire Marshal be willing to recreate a similar incident?"

Intrigued with the challenge Bill responded immediately by gathering resources and setting up the very same event in a "safe" environment in a quarry in Branford, Connecticut far away from people and buildings. He reached out to Phil Gauvin, a licensed "shooter" from Pyro FX, and under the watch of Joe Kingston and John Doucette of DAS, a food truck was wired and propane vapor was introduced into the rear of the vehicle by a remote propane tank that was piped into the food truck. All this work was completed within Connecticut state regulations. "Each time we weighed the remote propane tank prior to ignition so we knew how much propane was in the truck." Then on November 10, 2014 they blew up the truck -- not just once but three times!



Propane is heavier than air and with an ignition source -- this is what will happen." Bill added, "Fun was had by all - except the mannequins!"

You can see the televised Inside Edition video at: <http://video.cloud.kargo.com/now/stitched/mp4/cd348911-f595-4b05-849c-4dbc353e3a11/00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000/3a41c6e4-93a3-4108-8995-64ffca7b9106/8aae1aa9-4600-4db0-a8b4-0d561fa11b4e/0/0/198/151672540/content.mp4>

Bruce Willis wasn't on hand but Bill Abbott and his team along with the Branford Fire Department plus

People are talking..... by Cindy Rusczyk

A message from Linda Hubeny to **Commissioner DeFronzo, Deputy Commissioner Anderson, and Carol Wilson**: “This is an exciting day, a no finding review from USDA! The report identifies several noteworthy initiatives and I wanted to make sure you are aware of the team I have that helps me every day in many ways. First, the three of you have been very supportive of the program and initiatives that make our program one that USDA touts and have other states coming to for guidance. We are the small state that thinks like a big state and USDA recognizes our accomplishments. **Sue Miller and Dick Omohundro** are behind the scenes ensuring our application program is properly monitoring inventories and deliveries. They have been vital to the program’s success for more than 15 years. **John McKay** works with us for our regular newsletters and for postings on our website, and is always quick to answer our requests and was especially helpful this past week when I was requesting postings of documents at a rapid pace for the produce pilot application. The Business Office staff is wonderful. To have no findings on grants and documentation for grants is really unusual. **Jennifer Frazier, Aleksandra Scott, Jerry Lynn, Jane Panetta, Crystal Bryant, and Fran Dwyer** work with me regularly to ensure we are properly documenting the grants and funding projects correctly within grants. It’s no easy task, just ask Jennifer and Aleksandra! **Anne Simeone** has dedicated her time and expertise to ensuring our ‘little program’ has the best contracts. She has not only kept the costs down for our school customers by negotiating a flat rate per case with no storage fees for almost nine years on the statewide food and USDA Foods contract. She has also negotiated a 10 percent overall food cost savings for the Three Town contract. There was a time when no vendor wanted to do business with USDA Foods, now we have some of the best contracts in the region. And last but certainly not least, **Dan Sadowski**, he is truly the best. I can do what I do only because of everything Dan does. He has taken on so much since he’s come to this program some 15 years ago. He is the sole reason there were no findings in the warehousing and processing sections of the review. He is the voice on the phone calming customers and vendors. He is the

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!

guy in the freezer during inventories and inspections. He’s the one setting up vendor floor plans for the annual vendor show. He’s the one that is by my side every step of the way.

“There’s a kid in a CT school eating fresh and local foods today in school programs and through this program you had something to do with it! Thank you all for your continued support!”

Kudos to **Donna Wadhams** of Collection Services from John E. Willwerth “for your assistance in processing this claim on behalf of my sister Jeanne. I’m sure you run into many people who resent having to reimburse the state for matters like this but know that we are grateful that help was available to my sister and her children when it was needed. In these days when it seems popular to detest government and despise public workers, it is a pleasure to deal with civil servants like yourself who are knowledgeable, helpful, patient and cheerful in the execution of their duties. Again, thank you for all of your help.”

Pam Connelly from the Department of Correction sent a message to Deputy Commissioner Martin Anderson “to thank you for the great assistance that **Tracie Knapsack** has provided – true to form, DAS is supporting our endeavors over here! Tracie is helping us access file cabinets for use here at DOC. We appreciate her teamwork and facilitation – she has been a tremendous resource. Thank you very, very much.”

Diane Mazar-Roberts commended **Erin Choquette** and said “thank you” for today’s presentation at the NMOP class. Folks really enjoyed your presentation style, your level of knowledge, along with your humor. . . and, they said you were a ‘terrific’ host in my absence. Thanks again!”

Erin Choquette and Jamila Goolgar-Hall were praised by Meg Yetishefsky who “wanted to take a moment to let you know the Sexual Harassment Training I attended this morning was so professionally done. The content and the presentation of material

were informative and extremely helpful in breaking down the complexity of the topic. I have been to several trainings on this topic and this training was no doubt the most informative! I appreciate and commend your efforts.

President and CEO Amanda Ramsdell from Orion Protective Services, Inc. praised **Kevin Nodwell** saying, “Thank you so much Mr. Nodwell, this certification for me is ‘Christmas comes early.’ It will do so much for our business and have an immediate impact in our ability to procure new work and hire additional employees. I hope you have a safe and happy holiday season and thank you again.”

Jim Kelly, Purchasing Officer at Three Rivers Community College wrote **Carol Wilson**, “I just wanted to say ‘thank you’ for putting on the seminar – I not only learned some useful information, I also had the chance to meet some of the DAS Contracting staff that I’ve been working with on the phone. Again, thanks **to you and your Staff** on a good learning experience and thanks for all that DAS does for all of us in State Procurement.”

21st Annual Turkey Drive Results by John McKay



Thank you for another great year in collecting turkeys and donations for this year’s State Office Building FoodShare food drive.

Over the two day period we collected 165 Turkeys and over \$4,700 in cash and check donations.

DEEP joined the effort this year with a two-day total of 24 turkeys and \$1,165 in donations.

The Comptroller’s Office delivered 11 turkeys and \$565. The Comptroller’s Office carries on their annual drive in memory of Bill Rice, a long-time Comptroller employee, who was pivotal in the early years of the turkey drive.

And, from Cindy Cannata and her colleagues at Freedom of Information and Office of Governmental Accountability, came another 18 turkeys. Cindy was quick to point out she had help from many different people and wrote, “The Freedom of Information Commission as well as other divisions in the Office of Governmental Accountability, the East Hampton Yarners and the manager from Shop Rite in Southington all contributed to this year’s turkey drive. Eighteen turkeys at about 213.08 lbs.!” Cindy is another long-time helper with our

turkey drive and we thank her for her efforts to rally her troops.

We’ve had some off years recently, but we sure did bounce back nicely. Mike Felix and Jerry Lynn delivered the monetary donations to FoodShare.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in the food drive.



Cheryllynn Donnelly



Larissa Nycole Holder



Wendy Smith



Lori Raposo



Aleshia M. Hall



Angela Gelineau



Barbara Fabiani



Alyse Visconti



Robert Green



Joseph Higgins



Leonard Welch



Pasquale DeMichele



Sarah Tierney



David Geick

COMINGS and GOINGS

Shown top to bottom from left to right:

NEW EMPLOYEES:

Cheryllynn Donnelly – *Procurement Services*
 Larissa Nycole Holder – *Collection Services*
 Wendy Smith – *Collection Services*
 Lori Raposo – *Collection Services*
 Aleshia M. Hall – *BEST*
 Angela Gelineau – *DCS*
 Barbara Fabiani – *DCS*
 Alyse Visconti – *DCS*
 Robert Green – *Facilities Management*
 Joseph Higgins - *DCS*
 Leonard Welch – *BEST*
 Pasquale DeMichele – *BEST*
 Sarah Tierney – *DCS*
 David Geick - *BEST*

TRANSFERS:

Michael Rice – *DCS*
 Carolyn Kozak – *SmART HR*
 Carol Baranowski – *DCS*
 Christopher Northrop – *BEST*

RETIREMENTS:

Claire Muskus - *Statewide Security - January 1*
 Jo Ann Szela – *DCS - January 1*
 John Goldrick – *DCS - October 1*
 Ronald Zanobi – *DCS - November 1*

The DAS Times is a publication of
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 165 Capitol Avenue
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Dannel P. Malloy
 Governor

Donald J. DeFronzo
 Commissioner

Jeffrey Beckham
 Staff Counsel/
 Director of Communications



Michael Rice



Carolyn Kozak



Carol Baranowski



Christopher Northrop



Claire Muskus



Jo Ann Szela



John Goldrick



Ronald Zanobi

HOLIDAY 2014







In Memoriam

*As we reflect on 2014 we take this moment to remember our coworkers, our friends,
who are no longer with us.*



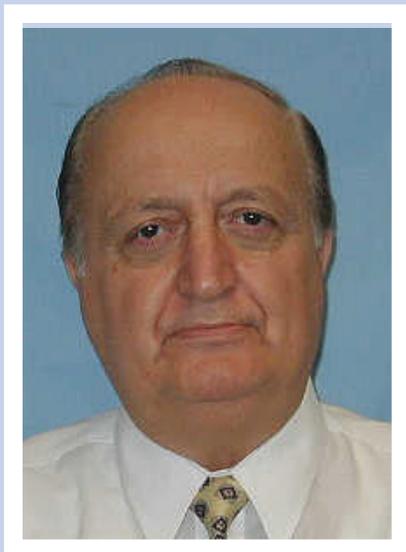
Donna J. Micklus

*DAS Director of Communications
and Editor of the DAS Times
April 4, 2014*



John Pacholski

*Contract Team Leader
August 20, 2014*



George Nakos

*Construction Services Supervisor
November 3, 2014*



Maureen Blackburn

*Administrative Assistant
November 9, 2014*