



Supplier Diversity Hits the Road Page 3



Peter Simmons Awarded Military Honor Page 4



Black History Celebration Page 14

APRIL 2016

# DAS Times

## Legislature Hears Arguments on New State Police Training Facility

by Nina Ritson



DAS Commissioner Melody Currey and Commissioner Dora Schiro of DESPP participated in the informational hearing at the Legislative Office Building.

On Tuesday, February 2, the legislature's Public Safety committee held an informational hearing on plans for a New State Police Firearms Training Facility. Commissioner Currey and DESPP Commissioner Dora Schiro were joined by staff: Troop H Commanding Officer Lt. Marc Petruzzi, DAS Staff Counsel Jeffrey Beckham, Property Administrator Shane Mallory, Legislative Program Manager Terrence Tulloch-Reed and Supervising Environmental Analyst Jeff Bolton to give a presentation, discuss the history of this project and how the process was narrowed to three possible sites. Also in attendance were Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and Thaddeus Martin, Adjutant General of the Connecticut National Guard.

Lt. Petruzzi gave a comprehensive presentation of how the state determined the current need to

build a new facility. He shared stories of various state troopers responding to dynamic situations and using their firearms.

Petruzzi explained, "Currently, the State Police train officers at a facility in Simsbury that was built on the plains of the Farmington River in 1947. Each spring, as the waters rise the facility floods and in both 2007 and during the Tropical Storm Irene of 2011 the flood waters rose so high the facility was so badly damaged that part of it had to be razed. The cost of flood water damage averages \$30,000 annually with one year costing \$300,000. The frequency of the floods has taken a toll and impacts the training schedule. All 1,100 State Police officers must be certified each year."

Continued to page 2

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Officer firearms training includes handguns, rifles and shot guns in all weather conditions, as well as dynamic training involving use of state police vehicles. In addition they receive classroom training that includes legal updates, safety instruction and computerized scenarios. The facility operates Monday through Friday from 8 to 4 with some low light training during summer evenings which concludes by 9 pm.

The new facility will include a 55,000 square foot building with classrooms, outdoor ranges and indoor active shooter simulations, gun smith cleaning, lockers and storage. It will have two range control buildings, 125 parking spaces and will be positioned on 30 acres of state land or 100 acres if purchased privately.

DAS' Jeff Bolton gave a Power Point presentation on the process that DAS must go through to reach the narrowed selection of sites proposed. "The search began in June 2013 with a GIS analyses assessment and by identifying parcels in Connecticut

with 30 acres or more if state owned or 100 acres if private. We identified sportsman's clubs, sand and gravel pits, old or abandoned airports, brownfields and landfills. We were also approached by private landowners willing to sell. "We categorized these sites by exclusionary criteria and then refined the list using discretionary criteria. Exclusionary criteria means sites not available to the state like protected open space, farmland preservation, floodplains and distance to schools and nursing homes. Discretionary criteria is the environmental resources, social economic and agency needs. We then rank the possible parcels, in this case 3,800 possible sites whittled down to 136 parcels after exclusionary and discretionary screening." After reviewing how buildable the lots were the choice was narrowed down to three options. One was in East Windsor and two in Willington – since then the owner of one of the Willington parcels has withdrawn. In 2015 DAS and DESPP met with the landowners and the first selectmen from each town.



*Senator Fasano speaks at the hearing*

There has been considerable opposition to this project from residents of East Windsor and Willington. U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney proposed a site at the National Guard training facility in East Haven as an alternative to Willington and East Windsor. "DAS reviewed this site and it was found to be inadequate early on," reported Lt. Petruzzi. "In addition, it is a Federal range and they would be charging the state \$895 per day if we were to use it for state training." Representatives at the meeting questioned why the current facility in Simsbury could not be raised above the flood line and rebuilt in its current place. Lt. Mark Petruzzi responded, "We can raise the facility but we still lose access as the roads are completely flooded and officially closed when the flooding occurs."

After an hour long question and answer period the hearing closed. DAS and DESPP will now return to work in order to find and develop this critically needed public safety resource.

# Supplier Diversity Hits the Road

by Nina Ritson

During the 2015 Legislative Session a Public Act was passed that expanded the State Contracting Set-Aside Program to include municipalities. While this addition to the Set-Aside program falls under the oversight and authority of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), the DAS Supplier Diversity Team took great opportunity to expand the pool of certified businesses in these communities and HIT THE ROAD, traveling to the municipalities to facilitate discussion with their eligible businesses by educating those companies on the program and the process of applying for Small/Minority certification. This “hands on” approach took-off and a new initiative was born - Community Grown, Community Driven!



Meg Yetishefsky of the DAS Supplier Diversity Program reports that this new initiative brings the program into the communities, reaching out to many local small businesses and helping them to apply for certification, on the spot, in their local library, town hall or other meeting place that has computer access. “As part of the process we are able to communicate with the small business prior to the outreach events allowing the businesses the time to come prepared with the information and documents needed to apply for certification” said Meg. “We started this road show in Simsbury on January 28 at the public library and we were able to work with many businesses from the Farmington Valley area. We also worked with the Upper Albany Merchant Association in Hartford on February 9. The DAS Supplier Diversity unit’s next stop is in the Waterford/ Norwich area in March. Everyone involved is pleased that DAS program representatives are traveling to their community to provide this face-to-face approach to certification. Many local businesses are excited about the opportunities that the certification will provide to the growth of their business.”



Community Grown, Community Driven!

Top: Representative John Hampton, Meg Yetishefsky, and Simsbury First Selectman Lisa Heavner, Simsbury Chamber of Commerce Representative  
Bottom: Attendees at the Simsbury meeting

Moving forward the team will continue to hold sessions in geographically targeted areas across the state. Questions about this program may be directed to Meg Yetishefsky, Program Manager at [meg.yetishefsky@ct.gov](mailto:meg.yetishefsky@ct.gov).

# Middletown Ceremony Acknowledges DCS's Peter Simmons and His Father

From the Middletown Press, January 28, 2016

Senators Paul Doyle and Danté Bartolomeo gave out medals to Connecticut veterans who served in the armed forces during wars ranging from World War II to the Vietnam War and the post-9/11 conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.



*State Sen. Danté Bartolomeo poses alongside a Middletown father, Robert Simmons, center, and his two sons — Peter Simmons, left, and Jeffery Simmons — who were among more than 75 individuals given the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal on January 26 at the senior center.*

This included DCS' Peter Simmons (Construction Services Project Manager) and his own father, a World War II veteran, Robert Simmons.

"You are the men and women who preserve our freedom," said Middletown Mayor Dan Drew. "It's hard to conceive of the difficult times you lived through. You had faith in the righteousness in the cause for freedom." Sean Connolly, Commissioner of the state Department of Veterans' Affairs, also attended.

"This day belongs to all of you," said Connolly, himself a veteran. "You risked everything and you deserve support and recognition."

The ceremony kicked off with the National Anthem sung by Kevin Haffron, followed by remarks from local dignitaries. Larry Riley, commander of Middletown's

American Legion Post 75, read the names of veterans honored.

The Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal was created by the state legislature in 2005 to honor all Connecticut veterans with qualifying wartime military service, according to a press release. Before that, the state had not honored veterans with a wartime service medal since World War I.

Information taken from The Middletown Press (<http://www.middletownpress.com>)

# Welcome Dorian Lord

by Nina Ritson

“I love it here!” What a professional environment – I am very impressed!” Were the immediate words from Dorian Lord, DAS Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist, who recently joined the Equal Employment Opportunity Unit at DAS.



Dorian comes to DAS from a tenure at the Department of Social Services (DSS) followed by several years in the private sector in a non-profit agency. In his position at DSS he specialized in the intake unit and in family intervention. He worked on the HUSKY Healthcare implementation, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and on State Administered General Assistance (SAGA). He left state service to work for a non-profit organization as an HR benefits training manager. But during this time realized his passion for educating people on legislation protecting them or protecting classes or persons with disabilities.

“I am excited to be working for DAS because this agency has a reputation of being the mothership for human

resources in the State of Connecticut. And I feel like I won the lottery because I am working for Alicia Nuñez! She is the embodiment of training and knowledge and I will learn so much under her tutelage!” Lord said.

At DAS, Dorian will be reaching out to other agencies in his role at DAS. “I will be an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist for the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) and the State Department on Aging (SDA) one day a week and also working with the Department of Consumer Protection in addition to my duties at DAS.”

He not only loves his work in human resources but he has a passion for writing, in particular, writing about a 300-year old home which he inherited. “This house has 16 inch floor boards in some of the rooms, yet there have been changes to the house over time like hidden rooms which makes the house extremely intriguing. A tunnel from the lower level actually leads to an adjacent cemetery! Lots of history here.” He laments that although owning and renovating a three hundred year old home can be a dream – it can also be extremely time-consuming and costly trying to upgrade and maintain.

Welcome to the floorboards at DAS!

# Housatonic Community College (HCC) and DCS Break Ground for the Campus Extension and Renovation Project

by John McKay



Housatonic Community College (HCC) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony Thursday, March 10 on its Bridgeport campus, officially kicking off the Lafayette Hall expansion project.

The \$45 million project includes additions and renovations to Lafayette Hall and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2017.

Speakers at Thursday's groundbreaking included Bridgeport Mayor Joseph P. Ganim, HCC President Paul Broadie II, Mark E. Ojakian, president of the Connecticut State

College and University system and DAS Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi. The event was also attended by a crowd of students, staff and faculty.

The four-story addition will encompass over 47,000 square feet of space, which will include a new student services center, science labs, classrooms, library space and two floors of new art studios and classrooms. The expansion will allow Housatonic Community College to grow from about 5,000 students to 8,000.

*From left to right: Former Hamden Mayor Scott Jackson, Dr. Shirley Zajdel, Lisa Mcree, Mark Ojakian, Paul Broadie II President of HCC, Deputy Commissioner Bud Salemi, Flaure Sainville, Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim, Keith Epstein, Rep. Ben McGorty, Andy Pinto.*

## Care and Share

by John McKay

At the closing ceremony last month, Governor Malloy thanked state employees for their generous donation.

On Friday, February 26 the final totals for the Governor's Care and Share food drive were announced and state employees donated over \$20,000 and 3,244 pounds of food!!! Good job to one and all!

There were three ways to donate: Online, cash/check or participating in the state employee volley ball tournament.



# New Class of State Marshals Sworn In by Nina Ritson



The 2016 New State Marshals

On January 21, 2016, DAS held a Swearing In Ceremony at the State Capitol for the New State Marshals officiated by State Marshal Commission Chairperson Martyn Philpot, Jr.

Commissioner Melody Currey and Deputy Commissioner Fatone were in attendance along with the Chairperson of the State Marshal Commission, representatives of the State Marshal Union, ex-officio members, Attorney Owen Eagan. The interview teams consisted of Vincent Mauro, Jr., Vice Chairperson Michael Cronin, Esq., Sarah Fryxell, Esq. and Mildred Torres-Ferguson.



Special thanks was made to the State Marshal Commission office staff consisting of DAS' Attorney Jennifer Montgomery, Paralegal Specialist Laura DiMeola and Secretary II Pamela Perrin.

In June 2014, 463 people took the State Marshal's exam, of that number 135 people were interviewed for the positions. During the ceremony 33 candidates were sworn in as State Marshals. Upon taking their oath of office these marshals are officially appointed.



Robert Giuditta, Director of the State Marshal Commission stated, "State Marshals are appointed to work as sole proprietors, independent contractors, as well as public officers with the status of peace officers, to make service of process in civil and administrative proceedings and also legal executions. State Marshals are appointed by county and work within their county unless authorized by law to go to other counties, or to work statewide."

With the conclusion of the ceremony everyone gathered for coffee, beverages and cake.

# Aspiring Leaders Kicks Off 2016

by John McKay

At CCSU's Institute of Technology & Business Development (ITBD) DAS kicked off its 2016 Aspiring Leaders training session with about 30 participants looking to grow and expand their professional skills. Aspiring Leaders is Connecticut state government's skill-based training program for managers. It is



designed to develop managers to become the next generation of leaders, focusing on critical skills needed for effective leadership today and in the future.

The Aspiring Leaders curriculum focuses on eight areas that incorporate the managerial competencies. They are: strategic planning, results based accountability, leading meetings and facilitation, process improvement, project management, leading through change, leadership, and presentation skills. It incorporates two self assessments: the Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), and the Leadership Behavioral Analysis II (Blanchard Co.).

Kicking off the event, DAS Commissioner Melody Currey welcomed the attendees and

talked about the work of state employees. "The importance of what you do cannot be overstated," she said. "This course will take your skills to the next level."

Commissioner Currey then had the pleasure of introducing the Governor - Nancy Wyman. "It's a unique pleasure to introduce her as the Governor because Governor Malloy is out of the state today."

"I care about state employees and I am proud to be a state employee," said Wyman. "Training, networking and educating employees to help them do their jobs – and sometime do more with less – is something I support."

Each fall, invitations and applications go out to agency heads requesting that they nominate selected managers to attend the next program. The program includes 11 class days and runs from March to June, annually. Interested managers should request consideration from their agency Commissioner to be nominated for next year's program.

For questions about Aspiring Leaders, please contact Peggy Zabawar at DAS, at [Peggy.Zabawar@ct.gov](mailto:Peggy.Zabawar@ct.gov) or Jason Crisco at [Jason.Crisco@ct.gov](mailto:Jason.Crisco@ct.gov)

# National Procurement Month teams with Diversity Day in DAS Procurement by John McKay



Top: Carol Wilson joins Glen Thames and Ben Barre  
Below: The Procurement Team

DAS Procurement staff gathered for a day of training and acknowledgment in recognition of National Procurement Month while taking some time to acknowledge diversity within the workforce.

DAS Procurement Director Carol Wilson kicked off the event by reading a proclamation from Governor Dannel P. Malloy which read in part:

“Whereas, the purchasing, contracting, and materials management professions are integral to the efficiency and effectiveness of both government and business; and

Whereas, during the month of March, the Connecticut Chapter of the National Association of State Procurement Officials, along with chapters across the country, engage in efforts to inform the public about the important role played by the purchasing, contracting, and materials management professions on government, business, and industry; now

Therefore, I, Dannel P. Malloy, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim the month of March 2016 to Celebrate Procurement Month in the State of Connecticut.”

Carol then introduced guest speaker Glen Thames who is a Hartford City Councilwoman and also works at Connecticut Innovations.

Councilwoman Thames went into interesting detail about the Hartford Schools system and how there can be over 800 languages spoken by students within the system.

“You can imagine the issues that arise from this scenario,” said Thames. “But it’s important to think of how the student feels and do the best to make them feel included not excluded. The same must be done in the work environment; you must be inclusive of your workforce.

Each procurement team was asked to develop a quick diversity event. Tina Costanzo’s team did a quick genealogy and hobbies profile of each of her team members.

Team Joe Giliberto had a quiz on how well they knew each other on previous jobs and childhood photos.

The team from Meg Yetishefsky's small businesses unit brought in food representing their heritage. Italian, Polish and Jamaican cuisine were well represented for the diversity portion of the event.

Team Carlos Velez adopted a Jeopardy quiz show on various liberties, laws and constitutional questions on diversity, handicap laws, slavery and rights afforded to Americans in the constitution.

Don Casella's team showed an inspirational video clip on how diversity is viewed in Australia and a mock workplace interview where the candidate may not have acted appropriately to meeting his future co-workers.

Cindy Milardo and her team found a humorous and sometime cringe-worthy episode of the TV show "The Office" where a diversity training event goes horribly wrong. "It'll make you laugh and maybe even uncomfortable, but I hope it makes you think," said Cindy.

The training event ended with Carol talking about how far state procurement has come over the years and how the differences in diversity of the DAS procurement team are an asset to moving forward and tackling the issues which face state procurement and, in turn, state government.



Top: Carlos Velez presents Diversity Jeopardy  
Middle: games presented by Team Giliberto  
Bottom: Tasty buffet by Supplier Diversity

## What's Cooking in Shane's Office? by Nina Ritson



What is more Italian than pizza? Well, that is actually debatable ..... and pizza just may not be Italian after all. This was the consensus of the Diversity luncheon held March 22 in G-1, Shane Mallory's office.

"I have eight employees who all sat down with me and while we were talking we realized we had at least six different heritages - so what better way to express this diversity than with food!" said Director Shane Mallory who greeted Commissioner Currey, Deputy Commissioner Fatone, Robin Havelin and Deb Arrieta as they joined the team for lunch.



And diverse it was - with a risotto alfredo, polish kielbasa, Italian meatballs, African Vegetable Delicacy, Jamaica curried chicken, English scones and tea, German potato salad, almond paste cookies and cannolis, and, of course, pizza!

*Top from left to right: Mary Taylor, Tom Jerram, Eugenie Williams, D.J. Zordan, Shane Mallory, Bill Falletti, Rachel Whitesell (legal), Sheryl Lohbusch. And not pictured Mat Longanecker.*

*Commissioner Currey shares in the festivities.*

# BEST Endorsement of CTfastrak

by John McKay

## LEONARD

CTfastrak rider  
Berlin, CT



CTfastrak will be celebrating its one year anniversary this month and what better way to celebrate than to hear a testimonial from one of our own DAS employees.

Leonard Welch is the Director of Unified Communications at BEST and his testimony was featured in a CTfastrak commercial.

### **How did you get involved with CTfastrak?**

I have a friend who works for the DOT as a CTfastrak planner so I'd been getting updates of the plans since construction began. I came to the State in July of 2014 – and as part of my preparation – I wondered whether CTfastrak would be an option for me. Around the time that I started, my friend let me know that there would be

a stop at my building at 55 Farmington Avenue. Living in Berlin – close to the hub station in New Britain – taking CTfastrak seemed like be a great opportunity to reduce what's become a wildly variable commute time. How did your story end up as one of their commercials?

Having a son with after-school commitments, it's sometimes important to know when I'll be home. One day, I sent a text to my wife after I boarded the bus - 'I'll be home at 6:15pm'. I actually walked in the door at 6:14 pm and we both had a laugh.

I took the bus during the first week and talked to my DOT friend about my experience. Weeks later, she asked whether I'd be willing to share my experience with CTfastrak. As part of the process, I had to submit a brief video talking about my experience. I went to a CTfastrak station during the day and had a friend record a video on his phone. In the video, I talked about how – during my early experience on CTfastrak – I'd been able to inform my wife of the exact time that I'd be home. I guess that idea resonated with the review team. It's the one year anniversary of the opening of CTfastrak.

### **How's it been?**

There's been only one downside for me – and this is a very good problem to have – it's been difficult to find a parking space at the Cedar Street station that I use. Obviously, it's because more people are riding, and that's the object. It's working!

I still enjoy taking the bus when my schedule allows, and I particularly enjoy the relaxing ride to work. I also like the social aspects of the ride. When I'm stuck in traffic – trying to get home on-time for a parent/teacher conference - the only person I talk to is myself...and that's typically not a pleasant conversation.

### **WHAT IS CTfastrak?** – from the ctfastrak.com website

CTfastrak is Connecticut's first Bus Rapid Transit system. It is a system of bus routes that utilize a bus-only roadway for all or a portion of your trip.

CTfastrak routes are integrated with the CTTransit system, making it easy to connect, transfer and pay your fare. There are different types of routes and services available. The basic "subway style" route travels between Hartford and New Britain and stops at each of the 10 stations. Express routes exit the bus-only road at downtown New Britain station and travel beyond New Britain to Bristol, Southington, Cheshire, and Waterbury. Circulator routes use the bus-only roadway for a portion of the trip, exiting the bus-only roadway at certain locations to provide service to destinations in Central Connecticut like UConn Health, Westfarms Mall, and Manchester Community College. All routes on the bus-only roadway circulate through the downtown Hartford area to provide access to downtown destinations.

# 450 Columbus Update

by Carol O'Shea

Construction work is in full swing as we prepare for the first of over 2,100 state employees to move in beginning this summer. The office floors at the top of the South Building are taking shape nicely with the installation of new acoustical tile ceilings, painted walls and installation of carpeting all happening this month. Attractive built-in cabinetry and banquette seating is being set in place in the break rooms. Ceramic tile, wall wainscoting and floors are being installed in the breakrooms, as well as in the new restrooms on each office floor.

## Committee work during the month of February and March

### Adapting to New Work Spaces Committee: Met February 4

- Committee suggested setting up easily recognizable “Ambassadors” for move in day...we will have volunteers stationed in the garage, elevator bank and plaza level to help everyone navigate the new building.

### Emergency Protocol Sub Committee Met March 1, 2016

- Discussed specifics related to evacuation procedures for the tenant manual. Sub Committee, suggested either “live” or video training for everyone in building rather than having procedures highlighted only in tenant manual.

### Emergency Protocol Committee Met March 21, 2016

- Shared outline of Welcome booklet and Tenant Manual as related to emergency protocols for fire evacuations, active shooter emergencies, threatening phone calls etc... Statewide Security and Facilities staff will lead “tours” of evacuation paths sometime during the first week of each move in.

## Did You Know

- 1. Each office floor will have an attractive new break room equipped with two new refrigerators, microwave ovens, sink, counters and cabinets in addition to comfortable chairs with tables.
- 2. Each office floor will have a sound masking system to reduce conversations and other sounds (i.e. music, conversations) from traveling to adjacent areas.
- 3. Each office floor will have pleasant views of either the Connecticut River or the downtown skyline.
- 4. We will have 2 water fountains in the break room along with a built-in filtered water bottle filler...eliminating the need for “water clubs”.
- 5. Dunkin’ Donuts Park, the home of the new Hartford Yard Goats and a stone’s throw from 450 Columbus Blvd., is scheduled to play their opening game against the Trenton Thunder on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 7:05. Click here for info on their schedule and party decks! [www.yardgoatsbaseball.com](http://www.yardgoatsbaseball.com).



Above: Sample of kitchen/eating area in the South Tower.

Below: Sample of restroom in the South Tower.

# Black History Month Celebration

by Nina Ritson



On Tuesday, February 16 the Gina McCarthy Auditorium was once again filled with employees who braved the snow, ice and rain to take part in the 15th Annual Black Heritage Month celebration. As in the past, this event was co-sponsored by the Departments of Administrative Services (DAS), Agriculture (DoAG), Consumer Protection (DCP), Education (SDE), Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), Public Health (DPH), the Office of Early Childhood and the African-American Affairs Commission.

Opening the ceremony was Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, who, as a strong advocate for healthcare and education, said, “we must continue to build Connecticut with fair wages and access to education and healthcare for all – equality for everyone.”



After the singing of the *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, by DAS' Mary Taylor, Chairperson of the Black History Committee, a Moment of Silence for Fallen Soldiers was delivered by Lt. Leroy James. DEEP Commissioner Klee spoke briefly then introduced SDE Commissioner Dianna Wentzell who said, “Early in my career as a social studies teacher I learned how important it is for children to know the history of their ancestral countries. And in learning this history they need to understand the struggles of the African-American people. I know we celebrate this event in February, but we need to celebrate black history year round,” she said.



DCP Commissioner Reviczky asked everyone to keep in mind how our nation evolved because of the struggles of African-Americans.

Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone spoke of the journey of Richard Allen, for whom this year’s stamp commemorates, and noted that the African Methodist Episcopal church (A.M.E) which he founded in Philadelphia in 1816 is now 2,500,000 members strong. She went on to thank this year’s 2016 Black History Committee members: Mary Taylor, Tanya Washington, Glenda Rollins, Felicia Canty, Andrea Wadowski, Barbara Brown, Colleen Carter, Maxine Lewis and Rosalyn Thorpe.

Catherine Blinder spoke for DCP Commissioner Harris who was not able to attend. “We need to reach out to

Top to bottom: Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman  
DAS Deputy Commissioner Toni Fatone  
Christopher Rogers, Postmaster Hartford, U.S. Post Office



people in the margins of society.” Putting the accomplishments of Richard Allen in perspective she said, “he was an entrepreneur out of nature and need!”

Glenn Cassis, Executive Director of the African-American Affairs Commission says his commission is involved in remedying disparities involving African-Americans in our state, but that they must do more. “We need to do more for a second chance society; we need more minority teachers and administrators; we need to do more for student debt; free



community college for Connecticut students; and legislation is needed to prohibit unethical debt collection practices. He also noted that his commission was collecting water at their office at 20-30 Main Street in Hartford to be sent to Flint, Michigan where lead has been found in the water. In addition, he reminded everyone that this year is the 175th anniversary of the Amistad trial in New Haven and festivities were planned commemorating this event.



*Top to bottom: Section Chief Renee Coleman-Mitchell, DPH  
Director Glenn A. Cassis, African-American Affairs Commission  
Catherine Blinder, DCP  
Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, Agriculture  
Commissioner Dianna R. Wentsell, Education*



Speaking for the newly appointed Commissioner Pino of DPH was Section Chief Renee Coleman-Mitchell who gave these statistics, “African-Americans are at the highest rates for diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. We need freedom to have healthcare for all.”

Christopher Rogers, Postmaster, Hartford ceremoniously unveiled the 39th Black History postage stamp of Richard Allen.

The presentation was followed by the powerful dance “Journey” by the Island Reflections Dance Company and a play, *The Love that Forgives*, with committee members and original cast from the stage play, “*The Boat to Obama*.”

Concluding the event was a lunch served and packed to go as most attendees were headed back to their offices in the State Office Building.

Congratulations and thank you for another fine Black History presentation!

*Top to bottom: Dancers from the Island Reflections Dance Company*

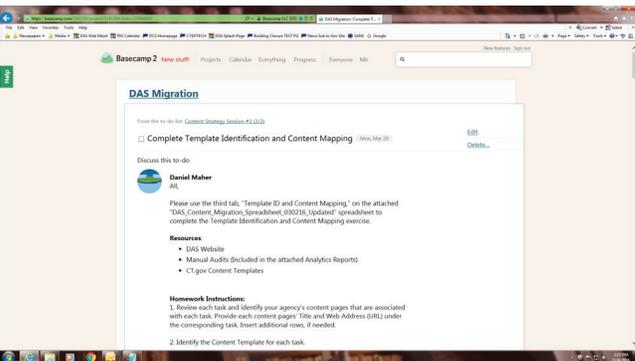
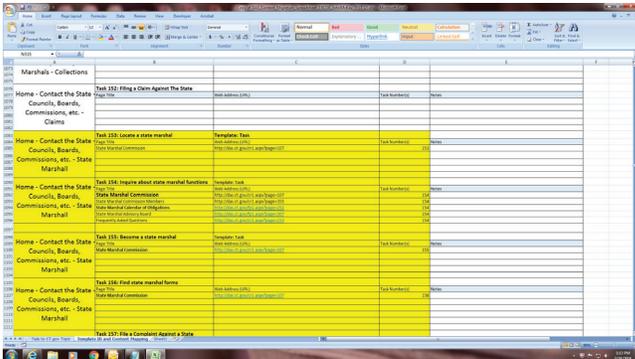
*Lower right: Cast from the Original Stage Play, “Boat to Obama,” and staff*



# Web Update by John McKay

It's really happening! DAS is in the beginning stages of migrating all information from the BEST, Construction Services and DAS Classic websites into one website on the CT.gov portal.

A team of 32 subject matter experts from across all three business centers have been meeting to aid in this transition. "We believe we have just about every division and unit of DAS covered in helping to organize, verify and eventually move the information over to the CT.gov portal," said DAS Commissioner Melody Currey. "We are going through what is called a migration process to take our current information/content and consolidate it under one website, which will be CT.gov. All information/content will now be organized by 'topic or task,' not by agency or government structure."



The vendor – Connecticut Interactive, LLC (CI) – is working on this "Unification Initiative" to restructure all executive agency information and services, currently found under individual websites, and re-organize it under CT.gov, the official State of Connecticut website. While each state agency will have its own "landing page," they will be fully integrated into the official CT.gov website. DAS is one of the pilot agencies working with the CI team. Our DAS Website Migration Team has been bringing forward a number of challenges that will assist the CI Team as they begin working with other state agencies on their transition. CI's plan is to have all agencies moved off of their existing sites, to the new content management system within the next year.

Information being organized by content/topic and not by state program means that customers (the public or other state agencies) will be able to find needed information without navigating through individual websites.

It's important to understand that this is a huge undertaking. The CI Team and our DAS Website Migration Team are working together on this project to make it easier for our internal and external customers to find needed information through all types of devices.

## CSEC Update

CT State Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving – 2015 Final Report.  
\$1,306,184.43 – the total given by all of our state employees.

Commissioner Currey thanks everyone who worked this year to make the CT State Employees' Campaign for Charitable Giving a big success! "Kelly Dillon, our DAS Coordinator, did a spectacular job of increasing DAS's involvement! Thank you Kelly." According to the final report, we had 86 givers in 2014 and raised \$17,630. In 2015, DAS had 133 givers totaling \$27,280.00. --- **Thank You DAS givers!**

She added, "The staff with the Department of Administrative Services courier services deserves special recognition for accepting, sorting and quickly delivering the bags, boxes and envelopes that were packaged for state agency coordinators located throughout CT. We appreciate the support we received from mail courier supervisor Michael Guimond and his staff. Thank you Mike and team. You kicked it off for the entire state."

The DAS Times is a publication of the State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor

Melody A. Currey  
Commissioner

Jeffrey Beckham  
Staff Counsel/  
Director of Communications

# People are talking.....

by Cindy Rusczyk

**Joanne Cavaiuolo** “would like to commend the **DAS BEST IT staff** for their attention to their service ticket. **Anna Tara** was able to resolve Darren Hobbs’ computer issues while he was in the office this morning. Nice job! Thank you.”

Kudos to CSEC Coordinator **Kelly Dillon** for the Restaurant.com gift card fundraiser to benefit the Greater Hartford YMCA. DAS, with the help of the Department of Consumer Protection raised \$300.

**John McKay** and **Deb Arrieta** want to thank DAS MIS’ **Anna Tara**, **Brian Halloran** and **Shun Zhang** for their quick turnaround in installing three desktop computers in room 538 for a large training event held in early March. John McKay said, “A+ job! I was able to log into the newly set up computers and get into our Basecamp website.” Deb Arrieta commented, “Everything worked GREAT and we had plenty of equipment for the entire group. Thanks again!”

Owen P. Eagan of Eagan, Donohue, Van Dyke and Falsey, Attorneys at Law wrote **Nina Ritson** about **Mike Guimond**, **Alex Caceres** and **Matt Costa** of the DAS Printshop. “I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for all your hard work and dedication that you put forth in regards to printing the material for the 2012 and 2015 State Marshal Courses. These courses would not have been as successful without your help. The materials were always printed on time and of excellent quality. You consistently met our demands and you were such a great help in fulfilling all our printing needs for the course. I really cannot thank you enough for the occasions when materials were sent to you in the morning and you had them available for immediate use during the course that day. You were a pleasure to work with and I am very grateful for your help.”

**Linda LoSchiavo** would like to thank all who helped or purchased daffodils during Daffodil Days. Linda said, “I collected \$658 during the three-week period that the fundraiser ran. I am also excited that 100% of the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society. She also said “I want to thank **Ju-lie Kozikis** and **Aleshia Hall** for helping with the donations at BEST. Daffodils were delivered on March 9.

Keyin Worth from (KT) sent a message of praise to Program Manager **Meg Yetishefsky** “to report to you the excellence in assistance and professionalism experienced earlier today from your employee **Stan Kenton**. For the past two weeks I have been calling everywhere trying to learn how to become a small vendor providing services to the state. No one called me back or returned my inquiry emails. Finally the Secretary of the State’s office pointed me to DAS and that was how I got to speak with Mr. Kenton. Mr. Kenton was very profes-

*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](mailto:Cindy.Rusczyk@ct.gov)*

*Don't be shy - good work deserves a good word- DAS employees are the best!*

sional with good manners in answering my questions and guiding me to the Biznet portal for registration. I was very impressed with his humbleness and his willingness to help when and where most of the other state agencies simply brushed me away. I am sure his professionalism has to do with your management style and the Procurement Office objective to treat people, in general of all kinds, equally with humanity. So, thank you so much for your assistance and professionalism.”

**Peggy Zabawar** wanted to say “Thank you to **Linda Shackett-Blue** and **Dana Soderlund** for two major fixes to the DAS Learning Center. Before, if someone selected the wrong agency when registering, we had to cancel the registration and re-register the person with the correct agency. Now with this new change to the system, we can update the ‘agency’ field direct-

ly, if someone selects the wrong agency when they register. This is a huge time-saver that makes running the Learning Center easier and keeps our records accurate. Additionally, we have a recurring problem of duplicate registrations for the same class, which wastes seats and lowers attendance. Last semester we had someone who registered for the same class SEVEN times. Linda took the initiative to contact BEST to ask if the system could be adjusted to prevent duplicate registrations for the same class. Dana then spent many hours creating and testing the coding to correct this, and now the Learning Center gives an automated message when someone tries to register for the same class twice. Thank you to both Linda and Dana for solving problems to save time, and make the Learning Center database work more efficiently with automation, to save staff time.”

Julia K. Lentini Marquis, Esq., Chief Procurement Officer, State Contracting Standards Board wrote to Easha Canada of DAS BEST “I just wanted to take a minute to share what a tremendous asset **Dan Sears** is to the state. I’ve had the pleasure of working with Dan to develop an application for use by contracts and procurement employees statewide over the last year or so. He has been incredibly responsive, thoughtful and helpful through the development process and helped me (a self-proclaimed, though perhaps overstated, luddite) figure out what we needed and how to create it. He also educated me about being an administrator and how to maintain the application. We went live with the application (a discussion forum and document repository) to a test group two days ago, and it’s already being hailed as a helpful, useful tool that employees are grateful to have. Many thanks to him for his dedication and work on this project and so many others!”

# Commissioner Currey Welcomes New Employees to DAS



*Clockwise from the top left with Commissioner Currey are: Dorian Lord , Douglas Zordan, George Evans and Nicholas Hermes.*



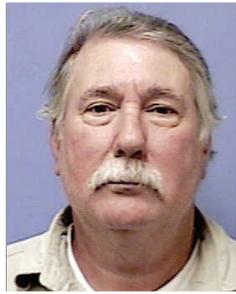
*Commissioner Currey and Deputy Commissioner Fatone greet the new Claims Commissioner, Christy Scott.*



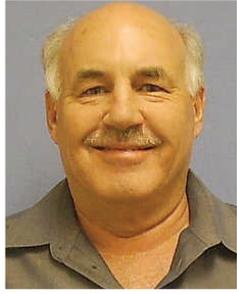
*Michelle Burns*



*Denise Dellaventura*



*David Suprenant*



*Robert Prentice*



*Anthony DeLuca*



*Marcia Joanne Cusano*



*Robert Dexter*



*Frank Arute*



*Francis Dwyer*



*Stuart Goffin*



*William Callahan*



*Stephen Bobala*



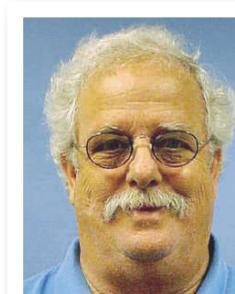
*Kathleen Sobieski*



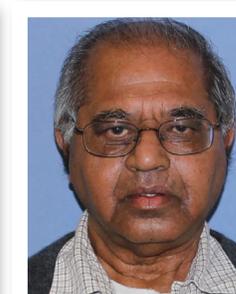
*Joanne Cavaiuolo*



*Michael Goulet*



*Wayne Tazzara*



*Homesh Sharma*



*Stephen Carey*

## COMINGS *and* GOINGS

### RETIREMENTS

Michelle Burns – Statewide HR – February  
 Denise Dellaventura – Collection Services – February  
 David Suprenant – DCS – February  
 Robert Prentice – DCS – February  
 Anthony DeLuca – Procurement Services – February  
 Marcia Joanne Cusano – Procurement - March  
 Robert Dexter – DCS - March  
 Frank Arute – Business Office – April  
 Francis Dwyer – Business Office – April  
 Stuart Goffin – Business Office – April  
 William Callahan – BEST – April  
 Stephen Bobala – DCS - April  
 Kathleen Sobieski – Collection Services – April  
 Joanne Cavaiuolo – DCS – April  
 Michael Goulet DCS – April  
 Wayne Tazzara DCS – April  
 Homesh Sharma – DCS – May  
 Steven Carey– DCS – April



Nicholas Hermes



Douglas Zordan



Dorian Lord



George Evans



Robin Taylor



Christy Scott

**NEW EMPLOYEES:**

Nicholas Hermes – Director, Statewide HR – January  
Douglas Zordan – Leasing and Property Transfer – January  
Dorian Lord – EEO Specialist – February  
George Evans – DCS School Construction – March  
Christy Scott - Claims Commissioner - March

**TRANSFER:**

Robin Taylor to the Public Defender’s Office - February  
Laura DiMeola - Department of Banking



Laura DiMeola



On Thursday, March 3 the Office of the Commissioner bid a fond farewell to Claims Commissioner J.Paul Vance, Jr. Shown above he was surprised by the team who prepared his going away breakfast.

# A Fond Farewell To Our Most Recent DAS Retirees!!



The first quarter of 2016 has started off to be a great time for employees to bid farewell to years of state service and embark on their new lives.

Some employees take with them over forty years of state service!

Kathy Sobieski remembered when “four people would share one rotary dial telephone - there was no air conditioning just a huge industrial fan to cool the office in the summer. Rocks had to be placed on papers.”

Steve Casey said, “I am grateful for my 22 years of service with good workers and good bosses too. “ He will be enjoying time spent with his new grandson.



Joe Nearney has been so busy traveling Europe with his music that he decided it was time to pursue this full time!



*Top to bottom*

**Robert Prentice  
David Suprenant  
Joanne Cusano**



*Surrounded by  
Commissioner Currey,  
supervisors and coworkers  
clockwise from top left:*

- Tony DeLuca**
- Robert Dexter**
- Frank Arute**
- Steve Bobala**
- Michael Goulet**
- Fran Dwyer**



*Clockwise from top left:*  
**Homesh Sharma**  
**Wayne Tezzara**  
**Stephen Carey**  
**Joanne Cavaiuolo**  
**Joe Nerney (from the Gift Shop)**  
**Kathy Sobieski**

## *In Memoriam*



**Patricia Lombardo**  
*Office of the State Building Inspector*  
*Bureau of Elevators*  
*January 29, 2016*