Goodbye and Thank You to Everyone at DMV

As you likely know by now, I am departing DMV to become the next commissioner at the state Department of Administrative Services. Please join me in welcoming Andres Ayala, Jr., as he prepares to become DMV’s new commissioner. I trust that you will welcome him the same courteous and professional way that you greeted me.

My next position will be a challenge, but I will be better prepared thanks to you – the employees of DMV.

Since this is going to be my last employee newsletter column, I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you for making DMV better.

We’ve made great strides over the last four years. Governor Malloy has complimented me on DMV’s success over the last four years – but my success is truly your success.

We made it a point to seek out new ways to serve the people of Connecticut more efficiently and effectively. We did just that.

We now offer more online services for customers, such as a scheduling system for learner’s permit tests and for our new appointment-only office in Stamford. We’ve made waiting in line a thing of the past for some services.

If you have to wait in line, DMV also now provides a web-based check on wait times for each service location so customers can pick Continued on page 3

DMV’s Generosity Grows: Employees Give to Charities Through State Campaign

DMV employees continue to be generous to non-profit charities in need through the State Employees Campaign for Charitable Giving (CSEC).

The Department’s total donation to the CSEC was $16,442, a 30 percent increase from last year. There were a total of 101 donors, a 25 percent increase from 2013.

“Thank you and congratulations to all the DMV staff who donated,” DMV Commissioner Melody A. Currey said. “So many different charities will benefit – that’s an impressive increase.”

In 2013, DMV employees donated a total of $12,583 to the CSEC. The CSEC is the once a year opportunity for Connecticut State Employees to contribute to non-profit charities at the workplace. Through the CSEC, state employees can make a single gift to help people locally, throughout the nation, and around the world.

For more information, visit ct.gov/csec.
ERC Wishing You A Happy New Year

By Mary Graziosa-Norton

State Employees are the best!!
The ERC committee would like to thank all our fellow employees for the continuous support throughout this year. With the money raised we will be able to help fight cancer, give to those less fortunate than us, and provide discounted opportunities for all employees. The food trucks were a great success and we will be bringing them back again next year along with various fundraisers. Sugar Bakery, who provide us with the cupcake truck, have asked me to thank everyone and to wish everyone a Happy Holidays.

As we come to the close of another year may we all take the time to appreciate each other, to enjoy sharing holiday traditions with friends and family and to remember to be good to ourselves and others.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Kwanzaa, and a Happy Healthy New Year!

Best of Luck to Inspector Michael DeBarba

Congratulations to Inspector Michael DeBarba (center) of CVSD who is retiring in January. Michael met with Commissioner Melody A. Currey and Acting Deputy Commissioner Mike Bzdyra and received a framed retirement certificate.

DMV’s Affirmative Action Plan Approved

By Natalie Shipman, DMV’s Equal Employment Opportunity Manager

The Department of Motor Vehicles’ Affirmative Action Plan was approved by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities at its December 2014 meeting. Employees who wish to review the agency’s Plan are welcome to do so.

The Plan is available for review in the Affirmative Action Office in Wethersfield, room 236, any working day during regular business hours. If you would like to review the Plan, please contact the Affirmative Action Office at extension 5264. Your comments and suggestions regarding the Plan are encouraged.
the most convenient time to visit their local DMV office.  
We now offer a mobile app that gives customers practice test questions for the learner’s permit test, a quiz for parents of new drivers, along with DMV office wait times and locations.

Some DMV services no longer take as long to complete. Next-day commercial driver’s license test results are now available, VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) checks can be done at over 200 emission stations. We cut the time that vehicle titles are issued.

DMV also now accepts credit card payments for a variety of transactions – some can be processed over the phone.

DMV’s teen driving advisory committee consistently promotes education and safety to teens — our most inexperienced drivers. For the senior drivers, DMV’s website offers them many driving suggestions for self-evaluation and driving tips.

In cooperation with the State Department of Veterans’ Affairs, DMV provides active duty military personnel and veterans the option of the U.S. flag on their license of state ID. DMV also gives active military members the chance to renew their commercial driver’s license through the mail.

There are many more accomplishments that we have done, but those are some examples of progress we have made. More can be done. And I have no doubt that DMV will continue to evolve and improve. Be proud of your work, because you are making a positive difference.

Our work together has prepared me for my next position, and has guided DMV on the right path for the future. Again, I want to send my sincere thanks and appreciation to all DMV employees.

I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season and best of luck in the new year.

**New Commissioner…**

**Senator Andres Ayala is Governor’s Appointment**

Governor Dannel P. Malloy has announced that he intends to appoint Andres Ayala of Bridgeport to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) when his second term in office begins on January 7, 2015. Commissioner Ayala will succeed Commissioner Currey, who will be transitioning as the incoming Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services.

“Andres has dedicated himself to improving the lives of not only the residents of the district that he serves, but also the lives of the children he teaches in Bridgeport’s school district,” Governor Malloy said.

Commissioner Ayala is currently serving his first term in the State Senate, representing the 23rd Senatorial District of Bridgeport and Stratford. In that capacity, he serves as co-chairman of two committees – the Aging Committee and the Regulations Review Committee. He is the first Latino to serve in the State Senate. Prior to obtaining that office, Ayala served three terms as a State Representative for the 128th Assembly District. He also previously represented the 137th Common Council District in the City of Bridgeport for five terms, where he became the first Latino in the city to hold the position of Council President. He is also a social studies instructor in the City of Bridgeport school district.
Wethersfield Office Collects Toys for Tots

The Wethersfield office building participated in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve “Toys for Tots” program. A program that helps to provide joy, happiness and goodwill to those who are less fortunate. A wide variety of gifts were collected and donations were collected by the Marine Corps in mid-December. Employees in the Wethersfield Branch office coordinated the collection. Pictured from the left are Lanette Kinsella, Richard Hewitt and Miraida Ayala.

DMV News Brief

Emissions Program Finds Efficiencies

By Ernie Bertothy

The Emissions program’s two-vendor system will soon be a thing of the past.

Under the current system, Applus is responsible for delivering the program’s day-to-day operations, and overseeing the testing network of dealer and repairer facilities. A second vendor, Opus, is responsible for managing the Emissions Program Emissions Database Management System, also known as EDBMS. EDBMS is the system used to collect emissions test information, such that the Department will be able to track testing due dates, records of pass and/or fail tests, photos, etc. Within the next year, Applus will be responsible for managing the entire system. The decision came after the system experienced some issues with data collection in 2012 and 2013.

“This is a major program change, and is being implemented to improve program efficiency,” said Emissions Division Chief Eyvonne Parker-Bair, who is leading the project. “We’ll be able to deal with the same vendor on all program matters.”

DMV is in the process of working with both vendors to build a new EDBMS that will interface with DMV’s agency-wide modernization project known as CIVLS.

Best Wishes to Heather DesRocher

Best wishes to Heather DesRocher of the Enfield office who is leaving the agency. Heather received a certificate of appreciation from Commissioner Melody A. Currey and Acting Deputy Commissioner Mike Bzdyra and was thanked for her years of dedicated service to the State of Connecticut. From left to right, Acting Deputy Commissioner Bzdyra, Heather DesRocher, Commissioner Currey and Bill Callahan of Customer Operations Bureau.
The long-time myth that cats have nine lives may have some truth to it, thanks to the good Samaritan work of CVSD Lt. Don Bridge.

One recent morning, Lt. Bridge responded to a call for assistance from State Police Troop H. Somewhere near the Interstate 84 and 384 interchange, a cat was reported to be sitting on the concrete barrier that divides the highway and Lt. Bridge happened to be close to the scene.

With rush-hour in full swing, Lt. Bridge parked his car along the HOV lane. The State Police and a Department of Transportation truck also came to the scene.

The three vehicles cornered the black-and-white feline from both sides of the barrier. After a few tense seconds, Lt. Bridge helped the cat to safety.

“I approached the cat and he let me pick him up,” Lt. Bridge said.

The cat did suffer a scratch on the paw, but appeared to be relatively unharmed. Lt. Bridge then brought the cat to a local animal hospital. The event also reminded Lt. Bridge that you never know where or what the next call will be.