



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
October 2026 - Volume 33, Issue 10

West Virginia One Stop Shop Permitting Portal Goes Live



The West Virginia Department of Administration has developed a new online portal to support the State's One Stop Shop Permitting Program. The program was established under House Bill 2002, which was introduced at the request of Gov. Patrick Morrisey.

The project creates a centralized, public-facing dashboard where individuals and businesses can identify the permits, licenses, and approvals required to start and maintain operations in West Virginia, while also promoting efficiency, transparency, and accessibility in state government.

"Speed matters when it comes to economic growth," said Gov. Morrisey. "We're cutting through the red tape and speeding up the permitting process so businesses can invest, expand, and create jobs faster than ever. The One Stop Shop Permitting Portal reflects our commitment to driving West Virginia's economy through initiatives that create

a smarter, more efficient government."

"We're excited to see this project come to fruition," said Department of Administration Cabinet Secretary Eric Householder. "This portal will change the landscape for licensing and permitting among West Virginia's state agencies, creating a more efficient, user-friendly experience for both businesses and the public they serve."

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PDS Observes National Recovery Month

Public Defender Services (PDS) joined the nationwide observance of National Recovery Month in September, highlighting the strength of people in recovery and promoting evidence-based treatment.

Throughout the agency, staff showed their visible support by wearing purple—the official color of Recovery Month—on Wednesdays, and decorated offices with ribbons, banners, and signs to foster awareness and resilience. These efforts serve as a message of solidarity to clients and communities, emphasizing that recovery is a journey of hope and transformation.

This year's theme, "Recovery is REAL" (Restoring Every Aspect of Life), reflects the importance of community involvement in building sustainable paths forward. As an agency dedicated to providing legal representation for indigent clients across West Virginia, many of whom are affected by substance use, PDS remains committed to both the pursuit of justice and the well-being of the individuals it serves.



The Boone County Public Defender Services office building was all decked out in purple to support those affected by substance use disorders.

SNEAK PEEK

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Purchasing Division Hosts More than 200 Procurement Officers at Annual Conference

More than 200 procurement officers attended the annual Agency Purchasing Conference at the Resort at Glade Springs, Sept. 1-3, 2026.

The conference featured two separate sessions - "The Essential Roadmap: Navigating the Journey from Bidding to Award" and "Beyond the Basics: Navigating the Complexities in West Virginia Procurement." The two sessions provided participants the opportunity to choose the one that best fit their needs.

Nearly 80 agency procurement officers attended "The Essential Roadmap," which kept all participants in one room as various Purchasing Division buyers outlined the purchasing process from bidding to award. In a survey, participants said they appreciated being in one group throughout the process.

"The overall format with the addition of the 'how to' videos this year was great. It gave much more information. Being able to follow along with an actual process of creating a requisition and following the flow all the way through to the Purchasing Division was much better," said one participant.

Additional survey responses included:

- "I liked it that we were all in the same room and all addressed at the same time."
- "I enjoyed how personable the Purchasing staff is. It's nice to not feel intimidated in asking a question about anything."
- "I feel like the Purchasing Division took the need for a beginner's session seriously. I really feel like I learned more this year than any other year I've been."

Nearly 150 procurement professionals attended the second session, "Beyond the Basics," which featured training in technology purchases, contract management, statewide contracts, and more. Survey respondents mentioned the following as positives:

- Hearing about new policies, procedures, and how they have been implemented by testimonies from others
- The smaller format. It is easier to ask questions, receive responses to specific questions, etc.
- The teachers were phenomenal

Both groups came together for a mid-conference lunch, during which a panel of agency procurement professionals offered their expertise and fielded questions from participants.

Kristy James, of the West Virginia Department of Transportation, was recognized as the 2026 Procurement Officer of the Year during the group lunch.

The annual award recognizes a procurement professional who demonstrates excellence, dedication, and a commitment to serving the state of West Virginia through effective and responsible procurement practices.

James has distinguished herself through her dedication

to the procurement process, commitment to customer service, and willingness to go above and beyond to support her agency and the state. Her professionalism and attention to detail exemplify the high standards expected of West Virginia's procurement officers.



Top: Conference attendees visited the State Resource Center to learn about programs available to State employees.

Middle: Participants checked in and received materials ahead of the conference.

Bottom: Breakout groups worked together to complete an activity during a session presented by Director Samantha Willis and Assistant Director Frank Whittaker.

WVSASP Achieves \$10 Million in Online Surplus Sales Through GovDeals

The West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property (WVSASP) has reached a major milestone of more than \$10 million in surplus auction sales generated through GovDeals, the leading online auction marketplace for government agencies to sell surplus assets.

Account Manager Daniel Alley visited WVSASP staff members on Sept. 16, 2026, to present them with a certificate and plaque to mark the milestone.

"This reflects years of asset management and a commitment to being transparent and accessible with our surplus sales," said Surplus Manager Jessica Burns-McDonnell. "GovDeals helps us give buyers convenient access to government property, streamline the auction process, and ultimately recover more value for our state agencies, because we return a portion of sales to the agency that originally disposed of the property."

The WVSASP has listed auctions on GovDeals since 2009. The agency has leveraged the platform to sell a wide range of surplus assets, including fleet vehicles, trucks, utility equipment, shop tools, and other items, ensuring surplus property is disposed of in an efficient, competitive, and "as is, where is" online format.

New auctions from the WVSASP can be found regularly on GovDeals at <https://www.govdeals.com/en/wvsurplus>.



The West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property is celebrating \$10 million in sales on GovDeals, an online auction platform dedicated to government agencies and their surplus disposition. GovDeals Account Manager Daniel Alley met with staff members at the warehouse in Dunbar to present a certificate and plaque marking the milestone.



Four Department of Administration employees were recognized for their dedicated public service during an Aug. 28 ceremony at the Culture Center. Deputy Secretary Sara Jones presented each honoree with a certificate celebrating their career milestones.

Clockwise from top left:

40 YEARS

Mark Isabella - Personnel

30 YEARS

Melody Duke - Finance

Heather Abbott - Technology

Terasa Miller - CPRB

Cybersecurity Awareness Month Focuses on Securing the Digital Future

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month—a time dedicated for organizations to come together to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity.

This year's theme is Securing the Next 250, which recognizes the nation's 250th anniversary and focuses on building a secure digital future for America's next era.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the federal lead for the campaign, provides resources for organizations to help educate employees and other organizations that are connected in some way. Cybersecurity Awareness Month is supported by corporations, government agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and professionals committed to cybersecurity education and protecting our communities.

The campaign builds on past efforts to empower everyone to take core steps to protect against online threats and offers additional ways to help keep the nation's critical infrastructure secure against cyber threats. This year, there are additional recommendations for business and government organizations that own, operate, or support critical infrastructure. We live in a highly connected world, with more sensitive information online than ever before. This convenience comes with risks. All organizations that are part of the nation's critical infrastructure and supply chain have an important role in cybersecurity.

Here are some tips to help you make the most of your participation:

- **Recognize the opportunity:** Cybersecurity Awareness Month is your chance to engage your entire organization on the importance of cybersecurity. Whether you're shaping policy, leading a team or simply practicing more secure habits, your involvement matters.
- **Get your customers and vendors involved:** Share cybersecurity best practices with your customers and vendors and encourage them to commit to stronger cybersecurity. We all need to do our part to keep our communities safe.
- **Think long term:** Talk with leadership and IT about adopting cybersecurity policies that include all of CISA's best practices. Include your vendors and partners in the conversation so your whole supply chain is more secure.

Cybersecurity is one of several topics planned for the West Virginia Office of Technology's Digital Government Summit. The annual event will be Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026 at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center. Registration is free. For more information, visit <https://events.govtech.com/West-Virginia-Digital-Government-Summit>.



A vibrant display of seasonal blooms line the walkways and main plaza of the West Virginia State Capitol Complex, welcoming visitors and employees alike.

A special thank you goes out to our dedicated General Services Grounds crew for their tireless work planning, planting, and maintaining these beds year-round. Their attention to detail keeps the historic complex welcoming and beautiful for thousands of state employees, residents, and guests each day.

West Virginia Honored for Natural Beauty

West Virginia has been named the second most naturally beautiful state in America by Travel + Leisure, the latest in a growing list of national honors recognizing the Mountain State as one of the country's premier travel destinations.

"The rest of the country is discovering what West Virginians have always known: there is simply no place like Almost Heaven," Gov. Patrick Morrisey said. "In just the past few months, some of the biggest names in travel have recognized our mountains, rivers, waterfalls, small towns, and outdoor adventures as being among the very best in America. Every new visitor means more customers for our small businesses, more jobs for West Virginians, and more opportunity in communities across our state."

Travel + Leisure highlighted a new study ranking West Virginia No. 2 among all 50 states with an overall score of 78.23 out of 100. It was the only state in the top 10 to perform consistently well across every category measured. The ranking cited West Virginia's extensive forests, more than 6,600 miles of rivers, six National Park Service sites, and nearly 200 waterfalls.

The recognition follows Architectural Digest naming the New River Gorge one of the 11 most beautiful places in America, showcasing the Gorge's dramatic landscape, whitewater rafting, rock climbing, hiking trails, scenic overlooks, and outdoor adventures.

Other recent national honors include Southern Living naming Davis one of the best Southern mountain towns to visit this fall, U.S. News & World Report naming New River Gorge the nation's best underrated travel destination, and Travel + Leisure recognizing West Virginia as one of the country's top destinations for an extended fall foliage season.

The West Virginia Department of Tourism also recently received the U.S. Travel Association's ESTO Award for Excellence in Print Marketing for the 2026 West Virginia Vacation Guide. More than 350,000 copies have been distributed since its January launch.

"West Virginia has incredible momentum, and these national honors show that people across the country are taking notice," Secretary of Tourism Kayla Kessinger said. "Whether you're looking for world-class outdoor adventure, a weekend in one of our mountain towns, or simply a place to enjoy some of the most beautiful scenery in America, you can find it in Almost Heaven."

The national recognition comes as West Virginia's tourism industry continues to produce record results. The state has surpassed \$9.1 billion in annual tourism economic impact, with visitor volume reaching more than 77 million. Tourism supports nearly 61,000 West Virginia jobs and generates billions of dollars in visitor spending that supports businesses and communities across the Mountain State.



Dolly Sods Wilderness



New River National Park and Preserve

Continued from ONE STOP SHOP PORTAL, Page 1

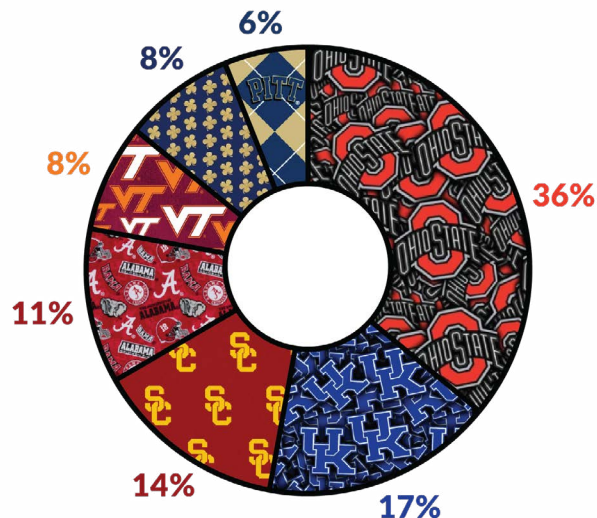
The One Stop Shop Permitting Program will incorporate processes from multiple agencies, including:

- Department of Commerce
- Department of Environmental Protection
- Office of Environmental Health Services
- Department of Revenue
(excluding the Lottery, Lottery Commission, and Division of Financial Institutions)
- Department of Transportation
(excluding the Division of Motor Vehicles)

The One Stop Shop Permitting Program is outlined in West Virginia Code §5A-13-1 et seq.

SEPTEMBER QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Now that college football is in full mode, we want to know: **If you had to root for a college team outside of West Virginia, who would it be? (Choose from the options provided.)** Below are some of the answers we've received. *Click here* to see a complete list of responses.



- Ohio State
- University of Kentucky
- USC
- Alabama
- Virginia Tech
- Notre Dame
- University of Pittsburgh
- Michigan

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

WELCOME! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Alexis Fauber**, **Ethan Sitler**, **Nathan Pitman** (CPRB); **David Bays** (General Services); **Mandi White** (PEIA); **Carleigh Cochran** (Public Defenders Services); **Samantha Stevens** (Finance); and **John Ferrell** (Technology). Also, **Alesha Toliver** (PEIA) has transferred into our department.

HAPPY RETIREMENT! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Diane Fletcher** (Technology) the very best during her retirement.

2027 COHORT ... The OHRD Cohort Program is for new managers to complete the DOP Policy-18 training in one year. A webinar on Oct. 30, 2026, will review the curriculum and answer questions. Visit bit.ly/4jEmjdU for more information.

MANDATORY TRAINING NOW ONLINE ... An updated recording of the State Officials' Purchasing Procedures and Purchasing Card Training is now available in CourseMill. All high-level state officials are required to view the recorded session by **June 30, 2027**. Visit www.onlinelearning.wv.gov and enter "PUR400EFY27" in the Course ID field.

EMPLOYEE QUESTION OF THE MONTH ... This month, it's the fall edition of "Would You Rather?" Answer several seasonal questions *here*.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in OCTOBER

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of October:

BRIM	David Dyer Solomon Phillips Jennifer Snow	GEN.SRVS. <i>continued</i>	Marie Wilmer Harold Young	REAL ESTATE	Caroline Bruce
		PROS.ATTYS.	Luke McVay	TECHNOLOGY	James Bowles Jeremy Boykin Stephen Cain Robert Caldwell Eric Daniel Tate Hamon Adam Malone Duncan Martin Gregory Pittman Robert Richmond Michael Ross Wanda Shafer Meghan Shears Malachi Sherrod Dustyn Stover Adam Tolliver Ruby White
CPRB	Rebekah Borchers Shawn Cunningham Kinsey Fox Larra Radford Lisa Trump	PUB.DEF.SRVS.	Rebecca Carnefix Kari Still		
ETHICS	John Roush	PEIA	Carlyn Barker Michelle Bauer Kasi Bell Cheryl Jackson Jessica Virtz		
FINANCE	Melody Duke Shelia Gray Carmen Looney	PERSONNEL	Mary Jane Ayoob Sirena Bennett Kerri Nice Joseph Thomas		
GEN.SRVS.	James Atkins Steven Bratchett Jason Griffith Michael Griffith Sidney Harmon Randall Hazlewood Charles Mullins Daniel Muncy Dustin Parsons Marissa White	PURCHASING	Jessica Carl Cheryl Cohen John Estep Joanna Hays Courtney Johnson Larry McDonnell Jessica Riley Christopher Seckman		

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is published by the West Virginia Department of Administration

Patrick Morrissey
Governor

Samantha Knapp
Communication Director/Editor

Production
Courtney Johnson
Teresa Cutlip
Jessica Carl