

Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

Monthly Employee Newsletter Published by the Department of Administration
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Customer Appreciation Day Brings Record Daily Sales, New Customers to Surplus

Each June, the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property (WVSASP) hosts its annual Customer Appreciation Day event.

This event, which includes a special after-hours reception, allows WVSASP staff to celebrate their customers with light refreshments and extended shopping hours. This year's reception was held on June 11, 2025. Those who attended shopped for items such as vehicles, file cabinets, electronics, office furniture and supplies, and more. This year's event was the most successful in recent years.

"We sold more than \$17,000 of inventory in a single day," said Surplus Manager Jessica Burns-McDonnell. "My staff went above and beyond to get the word out about this event and prepare for it, and the hard work paid off."

State employees—excluding Purchasing Division staff—are welcome to purchase surplus property for personal use, provided they do so as members of the public. Items are often available at significantly reduced prices compared to retail, making it a smart choice for budget-conscious shoppers. WVSASP serves as a valuable resource for those looking to stretch their dollars while supporting sustainability through reuse. From desks and chairs to computers and vehicles, the variety of available inventory is wide-ranging.

"With new items arriving weekly, there's always something worth checking out," continued Burns-McDonnell.

Employees of the Department of Administration are encouraged to explore WVSASP's offerings both during events like Customer Appreciation Day and throughout the year. Inventory changes regularly, and you never know what hidden gems you might find!

To learn more, visit WVSurplus.gov or call 304-766-2626. WVSASP also maintains a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/wvsurplus.

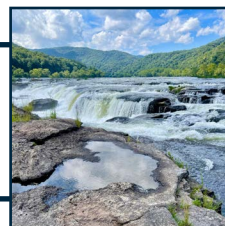


Employees from the West Virginia State Agency for Surplus Property assist customers loading inventory during a past Customer Appreciation event. The annual celebration offers extended shopping hours and special deals.

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Department of Administration Gives Real-World Work Experience to Interns

The Department of Administration is hosting six summer interns this year through the Governor's Internship Program.

Sydney Williamson, of Charleston, has joined Public Defender Services for the summer. Her primary focus will be on updating the Governance Manual, in addition to assisting with ongoing projects and gaining practical experience alongside attorneys and staff.

Williamson is a graduate of Charleston Catholic High School and a rising junior at Virginia Tech, where she is majoring in international relations with a minor in Russian studies and language.

Lilian Haught, of Hurricane, is interning with the Purchasing Division this summer. Her work includes writing for the division's newsletter, helping organize the annual conference, and promoting surplus property initiatives.

Haught is a Hurricane High School graduate and a member of the track team at West Virginia University, where she is majoring in marketing and minoring in

real estate.

Nicholas Reeder, of Hurricane, has joined Public Defender Services as a legal intern. He will be assisting with legal research and is excited to work alongside the agency's skilled attorneys and staff.

Reeder is a graduate of Hurricane High School. He has a bachelor's degree in history and a Master's of Public Administration from West Virginia University. He is currently attending West Virginia University's College of Law.

Jarrett Jones, of Charleston, is working with the Aviation Division as an intern this summer. Throughout his internship, he will gain hands-on experience and develop mechanical knowledge related to aviation operations.

Jones graduated from George Washington High School and plans to attend Virginia Military Institute this August.

Nikita Patel, of Charleston, has joined Public Defender Services as an intern this summer. She will be working on a variety of policy-related assignments, assisting

with research projects, and drafting materials.

Patel graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of science in forensic biology. She will start her second year at the West Virginia University College of Law this fall.

Lilian Murray, of Charleston, has joined PEIA this summer. She will support the legal department by organizing case files and reviewing claims.

Murray is a graduate of Capital High School and is a rising sophomore at Centre College, in Danville, Ky., majoring in biochemistry.

Shelton Tenpenny, of Nitro, is an intern for Public Defender Services. He is eager to contribute, expand his knowledge, and build meaningful connections.

Tenpenny is a graduate of Nitro High School. He pursued undergraduate studies at West Virginia University and is now a junior at Marshall University, dual-majoring in Finance and Economics.



Sydney Williamson



Lilian Haught



Nicholas Reeder



Jarrett Jones



Nikita Patel



Lilian Murray



Shelton Tenpenny

Registration Open for Division of Personnel's 2025 Second Semester Training Classes

The Organization and Human Resource Development (OHRD) section of the Division of Personnel (DOP) has posted on its website the second semester list of training classes, which are now open for registration.

In addition to virtual training programs, the schedule offers face-to-face classroom sessions. These classes are open to employees of DOP-affiliated agencies. Topics include but are not limited to avoiding burnout, time management, digital communication, successful delegation, building re-

silience in challenging times, and onboarding.

A list of classes and detailed course descriptions, schedules, and requirements can be found online at <https://personnel.wv.gov/ohrd/news-and-announcements/Pages/20252ndSemester.aspx>. Employees can also register directly at www.onlinelearning.wv.gov.

If you have any questions or a class you need is full, contact DOP.Registrar@wv.gov.

Donations Sought for Capitol Campus Christmas Trees

With the heat of summer all around us, it is hard to think of those cold winter months ahead. But for the General Services Division (GSD), it's time to start planning and hunting for the perfect holiday trees. Because of the required selection criteria and logistical considerations, this endeavor often takes many months.

The ideal trees chosen for display on the Capitol grounds should stand between 25- to 30-feet tall and must be uniform in shape. Each tree is fully decorated and can be viewed from all angles, so it is important that they do not have a bad side. Once trees are found that meet the selection criteria, GSD begins the logistical work to transport them to Charleston.

The trees must be located on level ground so a Division of Highways truck can enter and exit the property with the trees. Additionally, GSD must also ensure there are no utility poles or meters that could be damaged in the pickup area. In 2024, the trees displayed at the Capitol were donated by Canvas residents Joe and Terri Aquino and Watoga State Park. The Aquino's 25-foot Norway Spruce tree was set up inside the Capitol grounds on a stage. The 54-foot Norway Spruce harvested at Watoga was displayed in the Lincoln Plaza.

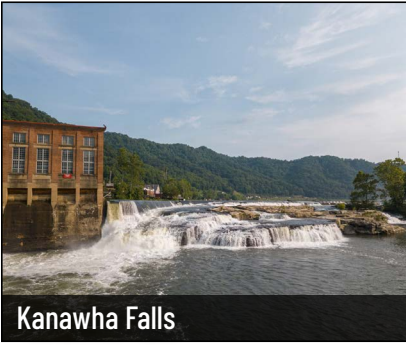
This annual display not only adds festive charm to the Capitol but also highlights the generosity and natural beauty found across the state. Showcasing trees donated by West Virginians allows us to share a piece of their landscape with visitors from near and far.

If you or someone you know would be interested in donating a tree, please contact the GSD Service Desk at 304-352-5483.



This photo from last year shows workers carefully erecting one of the Capitol holiday trees, a West Virginia-grown spruce donated by a local resident. Each year, this tradition showcases the natural beauty of our state and the generous spirit of those who contribute to making the season bright.

Visit Five West Virginia Waterfalls in One Day



Nothing completes a West Virginia road trip like checking off waterfalls on the West Virginia Waterfall Trail. The West Virginia Department of Tourism offers a way to earn prizes while taking in these spectacular views. Whether you're looking to earn your first prize or need a few more check-ins to earn your next one, slices of Almost Heaven surrounding the New River Gorge National Park and Preserve are rich in waterfalls to explore. Download your digital passport here: <https://wvtourism.com/west-virginia-waterfall-trail/>, then check off and enjoy these five waterfalls for an unforgettable day in the Mountain State.

Kanawha Falls, Glen Ferris

If you're traveling from Charleston along U.S. Route 60, Kanawha Falls is a great place to start. Just below the junction of the New and Gauley Rivers, Kanawha Falls stretches out all the way across the Kanawha River, creating an impressive sight. Parking is located just off of Route 60 with a brief walkway leading you closer to the falls.



Cathedral Falls, Gauley Bridge

Just a five-minute drive away from Kanawha Falls along Route 60, Cathedral Falls is one of the tallest and most scenic waterfalls in Almost Heaven. At 60 feet tall, Cathedral Falls plunges over jagged sandstone and shale cliffs. Cathedral Falls is both beautiful and easy to access with parking near the falls and across the road.



Grist Mill Falls, Babcock State Park, Glade Creek Grist Mill Falls, Clifftop

Beneath the historic grist mill at Babcock State Park, water rushes to form the Glade Creek Grist Mill Falls. This is one of the most photographed spots in West Virginia, and you'll see why once you get a closer look from the stone path.

While you're here, get a picture taken on the **#AlmostHeaven** swing!



Sandstone Falls, Sandstone

Found in the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve, Sandstone Falls is one of the largest waterfalls in the area. Sandstone Falls spans over 1,500 feet in width and is divided by small islands. Walk along the ADA-accessible boardwalk to view these stunning and scenic cascades.



Big Branch Falls, Hinton

Big Branch Falls is another gem tucked away in the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve. It flows through a dense canopy of green and blanketed wildflower forest, showcasing an eight-foot drop that spans out across bedrock. Begin walking at the Brooks Falls parking area before crossing the road to see the start of the Big Branch Trail, which will take you on a two-mile loop, passing by the falls.



Question of the Month

Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees **“What’s a recent moment that made you laugh really hard?”**

- When I wrecked my grandson’s e-bike
- My husband said he had a dream he was a muffler and woke up exhausted!
- Opening a text message from my step daughter with a picture of my grandson with his hair looking like a parakeet
- Watching “Trainwreck: Poop Cruise” on Netflix
- I overheard my husband singing, “Well, since my baby left me, I’ve been dating a dude named Dale...”
- Dropping my cell phone into the depths of a port-a-potty at the Bigfoot Festival. I guess my phone is as lost as Bigfoot, but Bigfoot probably smells better!

Welcome! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Calvin Long** and **Pamela Coffield** (CPRB); **Paul Frame** and **Jason Griffith** (General Services); **Brandon Perdue** (Personnel); **Rebecca Carnefix**, **Quinn Wooten**, and **Tyler Keller** (Public Defender Services); **James Atkins** (Purchasing); **Luke Lovejoy**, **Juan Timmons**, **Howard Hill**, **Cara Marchal**, **Brent Epling**, and **Gregory Mattox** (Technology). **Kim Nuckles** transferred from the Office of Equal Opportunity to WVOT.

Happy Retirement! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Victoria Carrel** (Finance) and **Deana Gose** (CPRB) the very best during their retirements.

Best Wishes ... to **David Arreaga** (CPRB) and **Stephanie Bailes** (Finance), who recently resigned from our department.

Our Condolences ... The Department of Administration is saddened to note the loss of **Edward Nelson** (WVOT), who passed away recently.

Question of the Month ... Thank you to all of the individuals who continue to participate in our Employee Question of the Month. This month we want to know **“What’s the weirdest thing you believed as a kid?”** To answer this question, visit <http://bit.ly/448eNjx>.

Got News? ... Share YOUR good news with all of your department co-workers! Email Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov with detailed information so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

Administrative Notes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in JULY

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

AVIATION	Gabriel Cobb	GEN.SRVS.	Edgar Crislip Bob Kilpatrick John Miller Jeffrey Moore Limber Munoz Patrick O'Neill George Williamson	REAL ESTATE	Timothy Maloney Joanna McDaniel Bobby Snodgrass Dawn Taylor
BRIM	Lori Bailey Carl Baldwin Janet Cooper Jason Stover	PAI	Duane Rosenlieb Jim Samples	WVOT	Matthew Beckett Toney Broyles Jamie Cartwright Kevin Cecil Kelli Doyle Mark Gregory Howard Hill April Honaker Steven Martin Shaun Neidlinger Joshua Phillips Jack Pullen Thomas Riddell Thaddeus Robinson Duane Ryder Ruth Shaffer Troy Stanley Teddy Thompson
CPRB	Alysia Miller Terasa Miller Beth Morgan Reginald Patterson Paula Van Horn Sharon Whittaker	PEIA	Staci Clutters Lee Halstead Thomas Marchio Thomas Miller Hugh Murray Nicole Spears Christie Yarbough		
ETHICS	Joshua Cottle	PUB.DEF.SRVS.	Heather Atkins Tyler Keller James Light Hannah McCoy		
FINANCE	Karla Harris Sarah Jarrett Lora Reese Timothy Scites	PURCHASING	Katy Bell Jennifer Fields Dana Hoffman Mitzie Howard		
FLEET	Lori Harper Teresa Taylor				

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