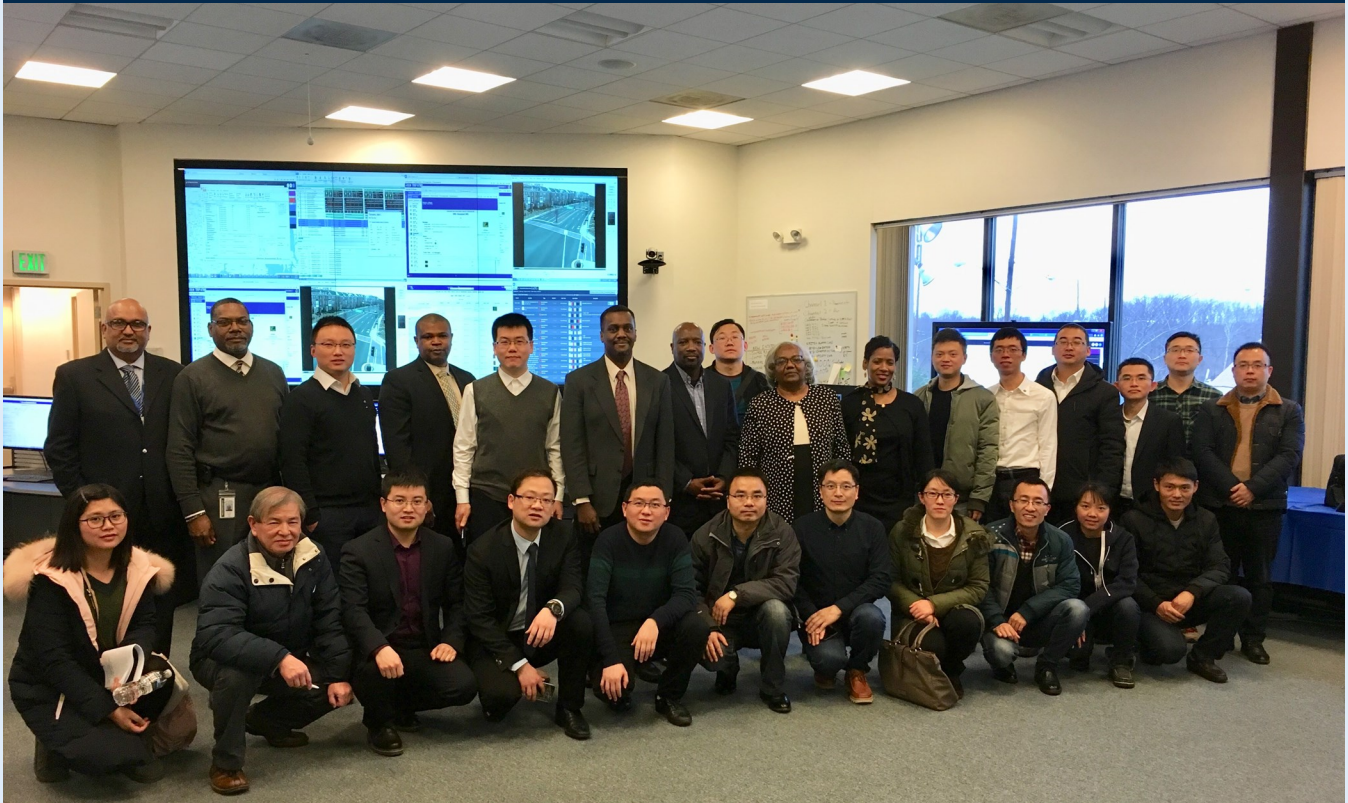




## Prince George's County's Department of Public Works and Transportation's Newsletter



**DPW&T HOSTS CHINESE DELEGATION — February 1, 2018**



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive

**9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 300, Largo, Maryland 20774**

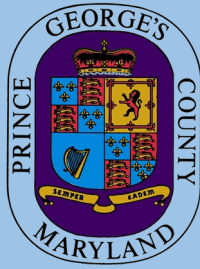
**(301) 883-5600**

**(301) 883-5709—Fax**

**Business Hours—8:30 AM—5:00 PM**



Darrell B. Mobley  
Director



Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive



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The DPW&T Newsletter is a quarterly publication. We welcome and encourage your suggestions for future stories.

Please contact Paulette Jones at [pljones@co.pg.md.us](mailto:pljones@co.pg.md.us) or Courtney Ward at [cnward@co.pg.md.us](mailto:cnward@co.pg.md.us), or call 301-883-5600.

Department of Public Works and Transportation

# Newsletter



WINTER 2017-2018

## Director's Message

Some people may think winter is just about snow for the Department of Public Works and Transportation, but that could not be further from the truth. We deliver a variety of services and our schedule remains busy throughout the year, regardless of the season.

We kicked off December by hosting the last Community Partners meeting of 2017. Then, shortly before the holidays, we were honored by the Maryland General Assembly for enhancing an area community with a traffic calming device.

We mobilized for nine winter snow/ice events during December and January. And, in early February we hosted a Chinese delegation of transportation professionals for the second time.

With 2018 now here, we look forward to another productive year that includes completing the Contee Road project and other roadwork initiatives, embarking on the spring 'Clean Up, Green Up', continuing to develop the County's Transit Vision Plan, and striving to be the best public servants we can be for the people of Prince George's County.



Darrell B. Mobley  
Director

### RideSmart Radio Ads

In early spring, DPW&T's Office of Transportation will launch RideSmart ads on Radio One. The goal is to lessen traffic congestion by helping drivers find more environmentally-friendly ways of commuting — such as public transportation or vanpooling.

The radio ads will air through June on 93.9 WKYS, Majic 102.3, and Praise 104.1.

For more information about RideSmart Commuter Solutions, visit its website at <http://www.ridesmartsolutions.com>



*Professionally and courteously serving the residents of Prince George's County*



## DPW&T HOSTS CHINESE DELEGATION



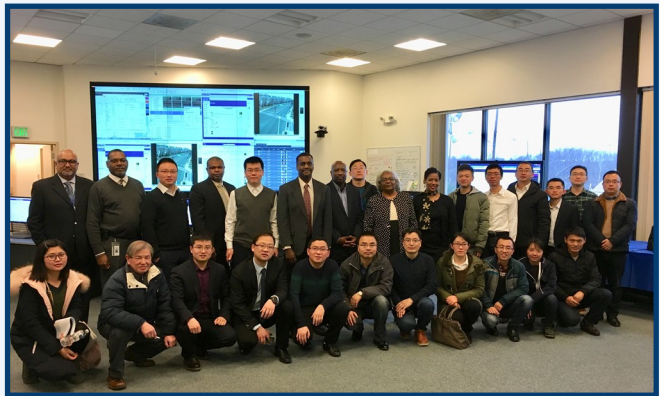
DPW&T Deputy Director Gwen Clerkley



DPW&T's OHM Engineer IV Ed Jones



DPW&T Deputy Director Martin Harris and OHM's Traffic Management Operations Division Chief Hadi Quaiyum



DPW&T's OHM's Traffic Management Operations Division Chief Hadi Quaiyum, DPW&T OHM Engineers Carl Starkey and Vincent Fulks, DPW&T Deputy Director Martin Harris, DPW&T OHM Engineer Ed Jones, DPW&T Deputy Director Gwen Clerkley, and DPW&T Public Information Officer Paulette Jones

On Thursday, February 1, 2018 DPW&T hosted 19 delegates from China, including Chongqing Municipal government employees and representatives from the New Energy Vehicle Research Institute of Chongqing, along with their interpreter. The delegation's visit to the Washington metropolitan area was focused on learning about new energy and smart vehicle development in the U.S.

Upon arriving at DPW&T's Peppercorn Place offices, the delegation was greeted by DPW&T Public Information Officer, Paulette Jones. After that, DPW&T Deputy Director, Gwen Clerkley, and Office of Transportation Associate Director, D'Andrea Walker, provided an overview of the Department with a special focus on our Office of Transportation. Following this presentation, DPW&T Deputy Director, Martin Harris, shared information about autonomous vehicles and the future of transportation, specifically regulations and policies proposed for intelligent transportation and smart vehicles.

Later, the delegation visited Prince George's County's Traffic Response and Information Partnership (TRIP) Center on D'Arcy Road in Forestville. While there, DPW&T's OHM's Traffic Management Operations Division Chief, Hadi Quaiyum, and OHM Engineer IV, Ed Jones, briefed the group on the County's efforts toward adaptive signal technology and other base technology to assist in gathering data for this effort. Overall, it was a successful exchange of ideas for all participants!

## MUIRKIRK ROAD/CEDARBROOK LANE/ ODELL ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

DPW&T's Office of Engineering & Project Management is happy to announce that the Muirkirk Road/Cedarbrook Lane/Odell Road Intersection Improvement Project is officially completed.

Located in Laurel (Council District 1), the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project realigned Odell Road to make a four-way intersection with Muirkirk Road and Cedarbrook Lane. The project improves safety for all users of the roadway -- drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists — by adding a full traffic signal. Other additions include sidewalks, turn lanes, a storm drainage system, and landscaping.

Construction on the project started in January 2017 and, just over a year later, the final touches were done in late January 2018.



Newly aligned Odell Road as it approaches Muirkirk Road



Westbound view of Muirkirk Road and the newly installed traffic signal



Signage on Muirkirk Road alerting drivers of the new traffic signal at the new 4-way intersection



View of the new 4-way intersection from Cedarbrook Lane



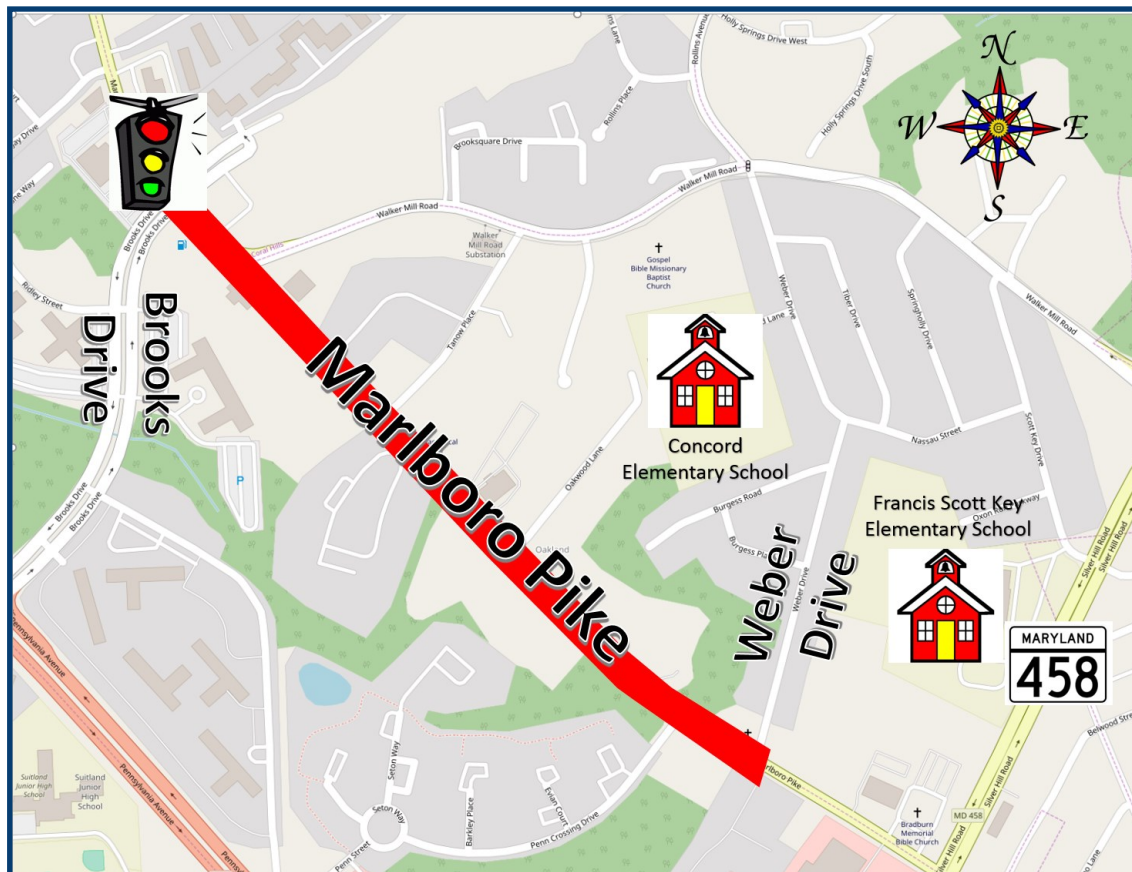
## MARLBORO PIKE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY PROJECT

This summer, DPW&T's Office of Engineering & Project Management is scheduled to begin construction on a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project on Marlboro Pike in District Heights. The project will harness more than \$1 million in federal grant monies.

The SRTS program aims to create safe, convenient, and fun opportunities for children to walk and bike to and from schools.

The Marlboro Pike project will span from Brooks Drive to Weber Drive (just less than 3/4 of a mile) and includes completely replacing and upgrading the sidewalk facilities, ramps, and driveway aprons, and a major upgrade to the existing traffic signal on Marlboro Pike at Brooks Drive.

This project will be a major step forward in improving pedestrian safety on Marlboro Pike -- a roadway that connects the surrounding community and schools with a bustling commercial corridor.



## 3 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SCHOOLS EACH WIN A PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ASSEMBLY

And, the winners are — Tulip Grove Elementary School in Bowie, Baden Elementary School in Brandywine, and Cooper Lane Elementary School in Landover Hills!

Last summer and fall, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) teamed up with Chick-fil-A restaurants in our region for the “Look Up, Look Out” pedestrian safety campaign. Students entered a contest for a chance to win a “Look Up, Look Out” assembly at their school — complete with a visit from the Chick-fil-A cow mascot. Tulip Grove Elementary may have its pedestrian safety assembly as early as this spring.

Also, in August 2017, DPW&T participated in the kickoff to MDOT SHA’s “Look Up, Look Out” Back to School Safety Campaign at Ridgecrest Elementary School in Hyattsville.

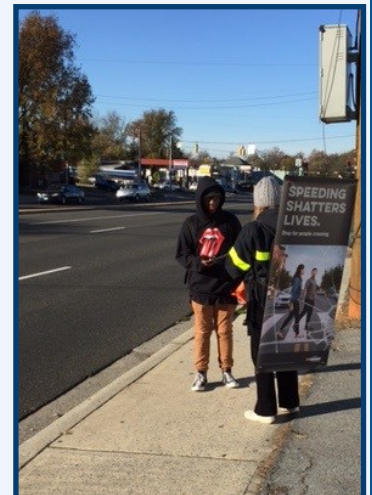
Through the County’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Program, DPW&T promotes safety for everyone — bicyclists, pedestrians, and drivers — via such outreach events as DPW&T Street Teams. You never know, they could be coming to a street near you this spring!



DPW&T Special Assistant to the Director, Vic Weissberg, poses with a school crossing guard on Annapolis Road in Bladensburg



“Look Up, Look Out” School Assembly Contest flyer



Prince George's County Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, Karyn McAlister, talks with a pedestrian on Annapolis Road in Bladensburg



## DPW&T DEBUTS NEWLY WRAPPED BUSES

TheBus covers more than 10,000 County miles via 28 fixed routes

The fare is \$1.25

TheBus operates Monday-Friday 6am-7:30pm



Seniors, people with disabilities, and Medicare cardholders ride for free (with proper identification)

Students ride for free after school (from 2pm-7pm) with proper identification

Service is suspended on major holidays

Newly wrapped bus (side view)



Newly wrapped bus (side view)



Newly wrapped bus (front view)

DPW&T's Office of Transportation is rolling out three newly wrapped buses!

The wraps, which were completed in late January 2018, show off some of the exciting events and experiences that Prince George's County has to offer. These eye-catching transit buses are now making the rounds on county roadways.

This was all made possible through the Prince George's County Bus Refresh. Under the Bus Refresh, our Office of Transportation was also able to replace passenger seat inserts and purchase new driver's seats. In the future, DPW&T will continue to make improvements including resurfacing bus floors and replacing headlights with LED headlights.

## DPW&T TO CREATE A RIDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THEBUS



DPW&T's Office of Transportation wants to hear from you!

It is putting together a Rider Advisory Committee for TheBus to help improve transit in Prince George's County. This is a great opportunity for TheBus customers to gain a better understanding of the transit system, and make suggestions for improving service.

Interested riders are invited to attend a meeting on Monday, April 16, 2018, from 1pm-2pm, at the Greenbelt Library (11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt). The first meeting was held in January at the Largo-Kettering Library.

For more information about the committee, or to RSVP for the upcoming meeting, please contact the Office of Transportation at 301-883-5656.

To learn more about Prince George's County's Transit Vision Plan, please go to <https://princegeorgestransitvision.com/>



## CALL~A~BUS DRIVERS ENSURE SENIORS ENJOY A HOLIDAY TRADITION



Call-a-Bus driver, Robert Williams, helps older Prince Georgians get to the annual gala



Guests enjoy the annual Red & Gold Senior Holiday Gala

On Tuesday, December 12, 2017 Call-a-Bus drivers provided shared ride transportation, for more than 230 older adults, to the 7th Annual Red & Gold Senior Holiday Gala.

Each December, the Office of the County Executive, along with the Department of Family Services, sponsors the Holiday Gala for seniors living in the County. The popular event attracts nearly 2,000 older adults (aged 60 and older) for a festive celebration at Martin's Crosswinds in Greenbelt. The Red & Gold Senior Holiday Gala includes entertainment, dancing, and a hot, delicious lunch.



## DPW&T PARA-TRANSIT DRIVERS BRAVE ELEMENTS TO DELIVER MEALS TO HOMEBOUND SENIORS

Despite the snow and arctic-like temperatures, DPW&T's para-transit drivers did not let that stop them from getting the job done.

On Thursday, January 4th, as Mother Nature brought snow, high winds, and below freezing temps to our area, para-transit drivers gathered at the Camp Springs Senior Activity Center in Temple Hills. They, along with Department of Family Services employees, loaded up meals to deliver to the 250 homebound seniors, in Prince George's County, who are enrolled of the County's meal delivery program.

The meal delivery program is part of the County's Senior Nutrition Program. In addition, DPW&T offers free transportation, to certain group sites, for senior Prince Georgians so they can receive a nutritious lunch along with companionship. For more information about the Senior Transportation Services, go to <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1100/Senior-Transportation-Services>.



## HELP DPW&T KEEP PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFUL AND SAFE

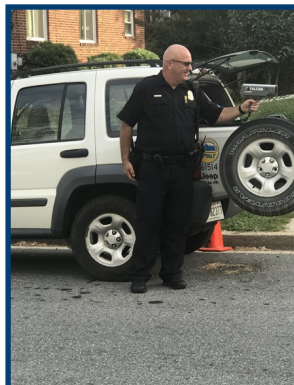
Many of you have heard of 'Clean Up, Green Up' — the County-wide clean-up program DPW&T hosts every spring and fall. But, did you know DPW&T offers other ways for you to help keep Prince George's County, and your community, looking neat and feeling safe?

DPW&T offers the Adopt-a-Road/Median Program, which is a partnership between the Department, and businesses and organizations, to help keep County roadways looking clean and litter-free. DPW&T also manages a Speed Awareness Program. This is a collaboration between DPW&T, the Prince George's County Police Department, and communities in the County to remind drivers of a roadway's posted speed limit. And last, but not least, we have a Street Lighting Section that installs street lights in both new and developed areas.

For more information about DPW&T's Community Involvement programs, please visit <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2774/Community-Involvement>.



Speed Awareness Day on Quebec Street in Hyattsville in October 2017



Speed Awareness Day on Quebec Street in Hyattsville in October 2017



Adopt-a-Road sign on Campus Way South in Kettering



The Spring 2018 'Clean Up, Green Up' is *tentatively* scheduled for Saturday, April 28th!



## DPW&T HOSTS WINTER 2017 COMMUNITY PARTNERS MEETING



DPW&T Dir. Darrell Mobley chats with a constituent



OE&PM's Engineering Services Div. Chief Liz Miller and TNI Manager Linda Turner



Constituent Susan Habig and DPW&T PIO Paulette Jones



OT Assoc. Dir. D'Andrea Walker, OE&PM's Highway & Bridge Design Div. Chief Erv Beckert, DPIE Assoc. Dir. of Enforcement Div. Ruby Sherrod, DoE PIO Linda Lowe, DPW&T Dep. Dir. Gwen Clerkley, and DPW&T Dir. Darrell Mobley

DPW&T played host for the last Community Partners meeting of 2017, on Wednesday, December 6th, at our Office of Highway Maintenance facility on D'Arcy Road in Forestville.

Dozens of people attended and heard important news from DPW&T, the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) and the Department of the Environment (DoE).

Community members had their questions answered by leadership staff of the three departments, and left with reference information from the agencies.

The next Community Partners meeting will be held in the spring of 2018.

### DPW&T HONORED BY MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY



DPW&T Director Darrell Mobley  
and Ms. Imani-F. Smith



DPW&T Dep. Dir. Gwen Clerkley, OE&PM Traffic  
Safety Div. Chief Armen Abrahamian, Ms. Imani-F.  
Smith, and DPW&T Dir. Darrell Mobley

On December 15, 2017 DPW&T was honored to receive official citations, from the Maryland General Assembly, for our work installing speed humps on Howard Avenue in Beltsville.

Ms. Imani-F. Smith, a Prince George's County activist, presented the certificates to DPW&T Director Darrell Mobley, OE&PM's Traffic Safety Division Chief Armen Abrahamian, and Engineer Technician Fern Ealy.

### DPW&T REPRESENTED AT COUNCIL MEMBER TAVERAS' AFRICAN DIASPORA FORUM

Prince George's County Council Member Deni Taveras' (Council District 2) African Diaspora Forum took place on Saturday, January 13, 2017 at the Rollingcrest-Chillum Community Center in Hyattsville. DPW&T was invited to have an agency table and provide information to participants about our services.

Held over the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, the event featured guest speakers, art displays, and dance performances while remembering and honoring the life and legacy of the civil rights icon.



OE&PM's Kristina Aguillard, Council Member Deni  
Taveras (District 2), and OT's Marisol Peralta



## DPW&T PACKS WINTER BAGS FOR NEW TNI

Shortly before Christmas, DPW&T packed and donated 50 swag bags for the new Woodlawn/ West Lanham Hills Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI). Thomas Johnson, II, the Program Manager for that



OT Community Developer, Marisol Peralta, DPW&T 700-hour employee, Mark Albright, and the County's Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager, Karyn McAlister



The County's Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager Karyn McAlister, OT Community Developer Marisol Peralta, DPW&T PIO Paulette Jones, TNI Program Manager for Woodlawn/West Lanham Hills Thomas Johnson, II, OT Assoc. Dir. D'Andrea Walker, and DPW&T 700-hour employee Mark Albright

TNI, reached out to DPW&T asking if we had anything winter-related we could give to him for the TNI as he and his family planned to walk the area and distribute the items.

DPW&T loaded up the bags with winter hats, services guides, and bicycle & pedestrian safety gear and information.

## DPW&T CELEBRATES WTS'-DC'S ANNIVERSARY



OT Assoc. Dir. D'Andrea Walker, OT Engineering Technician/ Operations Manager Marchel Simmons, OT Asst. Assoc. Dir. Semia Hackett, and OT Acting Chief of Transit Services GERALYN BRUCE

On Tuesday, December 5, 2017 several staff members from DPW&T's Office of Transportation attended the Women's Transportation Seminar's (WTS) Washington, D.C. chapter's 40th anniversary celebration. The special event was held at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

WTS strives to propel forward the transportation industry and the women who work in it. WTS offers its members networking opportunities, programs, mentoring, professional development, and much more.

# DPW&T EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND

Get to know some of the people on the front lines here at DPW&T — Dispatchers with our Office of Highway Maintenance (OHM). They field calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

\* For service requests, you should call CountyClick311 (311 or 301-883-4748)



**Michelle Lane**

*Written by DPW&T Community Liaison  
Courtney Ward*

If you are ever in need of a pick-me-up, or some inspirational words, dial up OHM's Michelle Lane.

Michelle has been with DPW&T for 22 years. She estimates she has answered millions of calls during her tenure. Apparently, Michelle has the right answers because she said some citizens have even presented her with plaques.

Her secret to success? Just some good, old common courtesy. She mixes patience and

compassion with her genuine desire to help the person on the other end of the line. Plus, it doesn't hurt that she treats the callers like family. Michelle said she feels "obligated to make citizens calm and happy by the time they get off the phone."

A self-proclaimed people person, she said her favorite part about her job is the people. Michelle doles out kind words with sincerity, and once you chat with her (like I have) you feel like you have instantly made a new friend.

"The best gift in the world is giving; and I love to give...I try to give something away every day of my life. And it works for me," said Michelle.

In her off time, Michelle enjoys spending time with her family, traveling (to anywhere she hasn't already visited), and cooking.



# DPW&T EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND

### **Chris Pedersen**

*Written by DPW&T Community Liaison  
Courtney Ward*

It's safe to say that in his 34 years working as a dispatcher for DPW&T, Chris Pedersen has seen and heard it all. And, during our chat he filled in this rookie Department employee on a lot -- including the DPW&T that was. For instance, did you know DPW&T used to be tasked with collecting dead deer from the roadways?

The personable Mr. Pedersen, whose career has always been rooted in customer service (he used to work as a 911 call taker for the Prince George's County Police Department), said he enjoys the solitude that comes with his job.



He noted dispatchers work independently and must have a broad base of knowledge because they never know what kind of calls they are going to receive – like the time he took one from the police. Chris said they wanted DPW&T to impound a dumpster so they could recover evidence. That evidence? A horse's head.

With more than 30 years with the Department, Chris said his position has taught him patience and how to get to the bottom of what is bothering a frustrated caller. And, he said the biggest change he has seen during his time with DPW&T has been technology. Before service request forms turned digital, Chris recalled completing 250 of them by hand during a storm.

An avid reader, Chris also enjoys restoring old furniture, collecting antique clocks (he has about 50), traveling, and cooking. I asked him if he plans to hang up the phone for good any time soon, and he told me:

“I’m too young to retire.”

# DPW&T EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND



### **Sheila Ross**

*Written by DPW&T Community Liaison  
Courtney Ward*

If you ever call DPW&T, and OHM's Sheila Ross answers the phone, just know you are in good hands.

This August will mark 12 years with the Department for Sheila, but she was helping people long before she began dispatching on D'Arcy Road (where OHM's facility is located) – spending 11 years as a dispatcher for the Prince George's County Police Department. While there she earned an achievement award.

Outgoing and a laugher, Sheila said she likes interacting with the public, and that it makes her feel good to help people with their concerns. She noted that “citizens appreciate when you go above and beyond”, so she does her best to be of assistance whether it's a DPW&T-related issue or not.

While callers may know her as the friendly voice on the other end of the line, the mother of one said co-workers know her for her mac n' cheese, although she said she loves to cook everything. Sheila also enjoys spending time with her daughter, family, and friends, visiting nearby beaches (when it is warm enough), dancing, listening to music — especially the oldies — and catching up on reality television. She also likes to give back and frequently helps feed the homeless.



# NEW EMPLOYEES

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

**Sherif Elkabbani**

Sherif Elkabbani rejoined DPW&T on January 2, 2018 as a Project Manager with the Highway and Bridge Design Division of the Office of Engineering & Project Management. He initially joined DPW&T as an Engineer III, with the Traffic Safety Division, in 2009 before leaving to join DPIE in 2013. Sherif also spent time as a consultant engineer with DPW&T on the National Harbor Project from June 2008 to May 2009. Prior to that, he worked for Loiederman Soltesz & Associates from 2006-2008. Sherif has spent the last 15 years as an engineer in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He attended Alexandria University in Egypt where he earned his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering. In his spare time, he and his wife enjoy traveling the world and exploring different cultures. He also likes watching different sports (mainly soccer — he's a Madrid fan), working around the house and yard, and biking. During the high tourism season, Sherif gives guided tours around DC memorials. Welcome back, Sherif!

## UPCOMING EVENTS



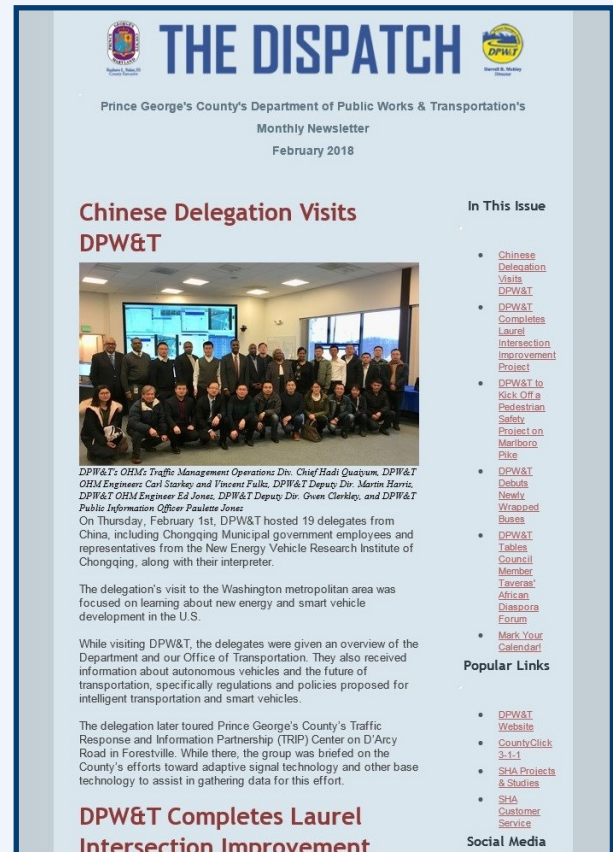
### Prince George's County Transit Vision Plan Community Meetings

- Monday, March 12, 2018 at 6pm at the Greenbelt Library  
(11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt)
- Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 6pm at Harmony Hall Regional Center  
(10701 Livingston Road, Fort Washington)
- Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 11:30am at the Upper Marlboro Library  
(14730 Main Street, Upper Marlboro)
- Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 6pm at Prince George's Community College's  
Largo Student Center's Rennie Meeting Room (301 Largo Road, Largo)

DPW&T has a monthly,  
online newsletter called **The Dispatch!**

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- 4.) Click submit





# Need A Ride ?

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Maps and find your bus on  
Next Bus.**

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RIDE



WITH US

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Go to [www.nextbus.com](http://www.nextbus.com) to find your bus.

