

JANUARY 2011

# INSIDE



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**ONE 2 ONE**  
WITH DIRECTOR NANCY RICHARDSON

*I am taking the month off from writing a column...hey, everyone deserves a vacation now and then! I asked them to reprint my February 2006 column. It is about tolerance and acceptance and I think is as pertinent today as it was when it first ran. As we approach Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, I hope you find the message of the column relevant to both your work and personal life.*

**L**ike many of you, I grew up in small town Iowa where everybody seemed pretty much the same as my family. Yet, as I reflect on my childhood, one of my fondest memories is of the guests, frequently strangers to me, who often graced our dinner table, particularly at various holiday times.

Whether it was the elderly brothers who had no relatives nearby, the middle-aged man in town who did odd jobs and lived in a room at the old hotel, the man from somewhere in Asia that somehow ended up in our small town working with my Dad, or the lonely resident of the "County Farm," over time we enjoyed an eclectic group of dinner guests.

As I think about it now, I realize my parents never talked about this with us kids; it just happened as a very natural part of our lives. Set an extra place at the table, make them feel welcome and enjoy their company...those were the unspoken expectations of my parents...and not a bad motto for life!

Two occurrences in January cause me to reflect on these childhood memories. First is the national celebration of the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., a man who worked all his life to increase tolerance among people. The second, and on a much more personal level, is the anniversary of my mother's death on MLK holiday back in 1997. While I never met Dr. King, I very much admired him and his message of tolerance. And, in her small way, my mother brought a similar message of tolerance to life for me. Treat everyone with tolerance and respect. In fact, don't just tolerate differences, but enjoy them, learn from them and celebrate them!

So, what does all this have to do with us DOTers? We hear about welcoming diversity in the workplace, having a productive workplace environment, and fostering good working relationships among coworkers. I believe it all starts with tolerance of others, in whatever ways they are similar to or different than us.

But the best workplace is one where employees go beyond tolerance to embracing and celebrating the uniqueness of each other and what we each have to offer. We see our differences—whether in gender, race, nationality, age, personality style, or whatever—as opportunities. Opportunities to learn, grow, understand a different perspective, consider a different solution, and, in the end, to be happier and more productive.

So, my challenge for myself and all of you as my DOT coworkers is to be more open, accepting and tolerant in our workplace. I believe it will pay dividends for us personally and professionally; I know it has for me. So, as my mother taught me by example...set an extra place, make co-workers feel welcome and enjoy and appreciate their company! I believe that will truly lead to a better DOT for all of us.

*Nancy*

## I hope...

**D**ixie Harrison, highway maintenance supervisor in Ida Grove, sent in a neat idea for INSIDE. For the past couple of years her local newspaper has solicited members of the community to share what they hope for in the coming year. Here are the 2011 hopes of a few Iowa DOTers.

### **Dixie Harrison, Ida Grove garage**

I hope that 2011 brings:

- A year absent eventful weather events, such as floods, tornadoes, extreme rainfall, drought, blizzards or hail.
- Fulfilling and rewarding work for the employees under my supervision at the Iowa DOT.
- An opportunity to continue to serve the people of Iowa as a DOT maintenance supervisor.
- Patience and understanding from the traveling public. Budget cuts and retirements will make it more challenging to get some tasks done as quickly as in the past.
- Safe travels for the motoring public. Life is precious. Everyone, wear your seat belt. If you must travel during poor weather conditions, give yourself some extra time and pay full attention to the driving task.
- An improvement in the horse market. I raise quarter horse colts and hope to be able to sell them at a profit some day.

### **Dorothea Trotter, Driver Services**

I hope that fewer people die or are seriously hurt on Iowa roads due to texting or talking on cell phones.

### **Anonymous**

I hope that just one day others would initiate or at least return/acknowledge pleasant greetings as they pass through the halls.

### **Employees at the Dubuque Driver's License Station**

We hope:

- For continued good health for our families and friends.
- To keep strong relationships and open lines of communications with co-workers and loved ones.
- To win the lottery.
- To appreciate what we have.
- For world peace.
- To abolish hunger.
- And last, but not least, remember "These are the days, enjoy them to the fullest!"

### **Jose Perez, Information Technology Division**

I hope for an entire year of firsts for our new son, a wonderful time in kindergarten for our older son, happiness and contentment for my wife, and even more smiles from them – all for me.

### **Paul Steier, Motor Vehicle Enforcement**

I hope for:

- An improved economy based on a solid foundation.
- Good health, and time with family and friends.
- To continue to work with positive people that truly believe what they do makes a difference in the world.

### **Wayne Cameron, Design**

I hope that in 2011 I find the true joy in the people I am around and the things I am able to do.

### **Nancy Goecke, Information Technology Division**

I hope for a year:

- Absent from layoffs, furlough days or pay cuts.
- Where fewer lives are lost worldwide due to war, cancer and natural disasters.
- Where the economy strengthens allowing everyone to enjoy life more and stress less.

### **Mark Bortle, Construction**

I hope for:

- An enacted federal transportation bill to pass before the end of 2011.
- Both a federal and state gas tax increase so we have funding available to appropriately maintain and preserve our transportation systems.
- Safe travels for all who traverse the great state of Iowa. "One Death is One Too Many."
- A smooth transition to a new department director.
- No layoffs in the coming year.

### **Mark Black, District 2 maintenance**

In 2011, I hope for a year where our:

- Employees are healthy and safe in the workplace.
- Employees can find some security and stability in their individual jobs.
- Employees are given clear directions on work priorities so that they do not need to deal with undue stress from the feeling that they are expected to "do more with less."
- More experienced employees build relationships with our many new employees and help the DOT to maintain our reputation of providing excellent service.

### **Lynette Leopold, Information Technology Division**

I hope in 2011:

- Our troops return safely home to their loved ones.
- Homelessness and hunger end.
- A cure for cancer is found.
- Greed ends.
- Good jobs come back to Iowa.
- Communication improves to Washington, D.C. and state government.
- The list goes on and on.

## 2011-12 Iowa DOT legislative preview

by Elizabeth Baird, Iowa DOT legislative liaison

And here we go again ...



The state legislative session comes around the same time every year, beginning the second Monday in January. Even though it's "routine," there is always anticipation and curiosity in the air surrounding its start. While each session brings a lot of the "same," it often brings new members and priorities; and some new issues along with

some old ones. Which brings us to the upcoming 2011 state legislative session.

We will see a very different General Assembly in 2011 compared to the one that served during 2010. The final results of the Nov. 2, 2010, general election saw the 100-member House of Representatives move to Republican control (59 Republicans and 41 Democrats) from Democratic control (56 Democrats and 44 Republicans). More than 25 representatives will be first-time legislators in 2011, a quarter of the House membership. The election also saw former Senate Majority Leader Stewart Iverson and former state Representative Dan Rasmussen returning to the legislature as House members (and transportation committee members).

On the Senate side, the Democrats will retain control, but with a much slimmer majority (26 of 50 Senate members will be Democrats, rather than 32 of 50 members during the 2009-2010 General Assembly). The Senate will have nine newly elected members when session starts Jan. 10, nearly 20 percent of the body. This includes two former representatives, Bill Dix and Kent Sorenson, both who were elected to the Iowa Senate last November. Looks like I will be busy introducing myself and the Iowa DOT!

It is safe to say that jobs and the Iowa economy will take center stage, as will discussion of the state budget and size of state government. Many groups and individuals, along with the Iowa DOT, will work to keep transportation on the front burner, talking about the needs of our highway infrastructure and how to best address those needs, as well as other modes of transportation in Iowa, including transit, trails, rail, air and water.

Every 10 years the state legislature takes on congressional and state legislative redistricting, and 2011 is a redistricting year. Iowa is admired for its nonpartisan approach to redistricting.

The initial results of the decennial U.S. Census were released in mid-December 2010, and the more detailed results should be released in February 2011. The redistricting process begins with the Iowa Legislative Services Agency (LSA) proposing a map using a computer formula identifying districts with populations that deviate from each other by less than one percent, which is a statutory requirement. Congressional districts may not cross county lines, although state legislative districts may do so. The proposed map is submitted to both the House and Senate in the form of a bill that may be approved or rejected, but not amended.

The LSA may develop a second or third map and, if the governor does not sign a bill by Sept. 15, the Iowa Supreme Court will make the decision. Although complex, Iowa's nonpartisan redistricting process has served the state well since it was established in 1980. Iowa law specifically provides that districts shall not be drawn to favor any political party, an incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or any other person or group, or for the purpose of augmenting or diluting the voting strength of a language or racial minority group.

The Iowa DOT will sponsor a single bill during the 2011 session, including less than a dozen items ranging from technical to minor, noncontroversial policy changes. With the exception of better focusing on Iowa Code-mandated public transit report requirement, all of the proposals address motor vehicle items.

And, in advance, I want to thank everyone who so consistently provides quick, accurate information in response to bills that are filed and other requests for information. Your good work is positive for both the public and department.

So, we will see lots of new faces, deal with lots of old issues, and welcome back several veteran legislators who are returning to the Statehouse. And, since I started working with the state legislature in 1996, under then-Governor Branstad, maybe I will find myself feeling an occasional twinge of déjà-vu ... or maybe not.

# New technology being tested this winter

Not many people spend as much time in a vehicle during the winter as the Iowa DOT's maintenance employees. For 20 or so employees in the Oskaloosa shop, there will be a new friend in the cab this winter. The Iowa DOT will be equipping some snowplow trucks with global positioning system (GPS) units. The pilot program will link a GPS receiver to sensors to allow the unit to collect data about the truck's spreader controller, plow position, engine temperature, pavement temperature, and vehicle location and speed. The units will use cellular and other communications technologies, like WiFi. There is also the potential to use the Iowa DOT's Real-Time Network (IaRTN) for high-precision locations to track lane location.

Annette Dunn, winter operations administrator, says the units will serve a number of purposes. "The most basic information transmitted will be the truck's location. The highway maintenance supervisor and statewide operations support center in Ames will be able to look at a map and see the precise location of a truck equipped with a GPS unit. If there is an emergency situation where a truck is needed, knowing the exact location of the trucks on the road could significantly reduce response time and increase safety."

Beyond the basic location information, other sensors will provide a myriad of information to make winter operations more efficient. Eric Abrams, the Iowa DOT's geographic information systems coordinator, said, "This system is turning information produced by the truck into knowledge."

Trucks equipped with the new units will be transmitting data to each other, back to the garage and to the operations support center. Dunn said, "Because material effectiveness is closely tied to pavement temperature and precipitation type, the highway maintenance supervisor will be able to monitor spreader rates and temperature data to adjust rates on the fly, potentially making the material application more efficient and effective."

Brad Steinhart, highway maintenance supervisor in Oskaloosa, said, "The real-time location of trucks will be a real benefit when coordinating such things as cleanup activities in towns. With 10 trucks converging on Oskaloosa at different times it takes a certain amount of coordination using the radios to know who is doing what when cleaning the town. Operators will be able to see on the map in the truck who is close to town, to better coordinate efforts."

"The units will provide additional information to the operators. When visibility is poor, the GPS unit will show the operator intersections and other road features that might not be able to be seen out the windshield," said Dunn. "Eventually these units will also include live radar. That way an operator can see the weather that's on the way."

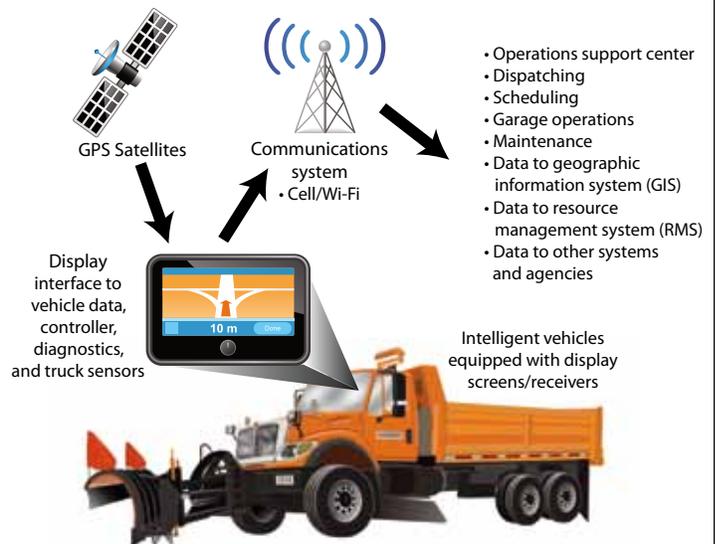
Steinhart said, "Having live radar displayed in the cab of the truck will also save time and money. Currently, when operators arrive at the shop to reload before heading out on a run, they check the radar in the shop to see if the storm cell and precipitation have passed. The normal procedure is to then start applying material to clean up the roads. There are times when more precipitation builds, but doesn't show up on the radar until after the operator leaves the shop. The on-board radar will give the operator the information to know if this precipitation is a short-lived or longer-term precipitation event. If it looks like the event will last longer, the operator can hold on the material until the radar clears."

Dunn added, "Right now, garage personnel have to manually input information for time sheets at the end of the snow runs. The GPS unit will collect a majority of this information and download it into a database, reducing the amount of data entry needed by the garage personnel. That will save a lot of time at the end of a long day in the truck."

As the data from the GPS units is downloaded, it can be aggregated in a single database that will eventually assist the Iowa DOT in analyzing more effective material usage based on traffic pattern data in specific conditions, possibly reducing the amount of material used and saving money.

"Other states have seen up to 30 percent savings in salt use using units similar to the ones we are installing," said Dunn. "We are making a conservative estimate of saving \$1.8 million, or a 10 percent reduction, in salt use when these units are installed in all trucks."

Dunn says material use is not the only savings the Iowa DOT is looking for from the new technology. She said, "Because the data entry is automated, it will reduce staff time. There is also the potential to reduce the number of trips needed if we can more effectively apply material."



# Moving really big stuff

## Heaviest load took to Iowa highways from Oelwein to Hazleton

**W**eighing in at 1,005,307 pounds, an Alliant Energy transformer became the heaviest recorded load ever moved on an Iowa highway when it took to the road moving seven miles from Oelwein to Hazleton in early December.

The transformer was built in Europe, shipped to a port in Texas and then transported by rail car to Oelwein. Once in Oelwein, the 131-foot-8-inch long, 20-foot-11-inch wide, 21-foot-9-inch high load was transported on dual trailers with 26 axles per trailer (52 total axles).

Execution of the seven-mile move took approximately six hours. The Iowa DOT began planning for transport of the load last year. The transformer was originally expected to arrive in the fall of 2009. Manufacturing and shipping delays altered the arrival date, but the Iowa DOT was able to work with multiple carriers and equipment configurations throughout the process to successfully move the load.



*Several agencies worked together to coordinate movement of the largest load ever permitted on an Iowa highway.*

The Iowa DOT's offices of Motor Vehicle Enforcement, including an escort of five officers to totally block the road along the route; Motor Carrier Services; Design; Bridges and Structures; and the Independence maintenance garage were all involved in planning and executing the move. The Iowa State Patrol, Buchanan County Engineer/Secondary Roads department and Alliant Energy were also involved.

## Capitol Christmas Tree makes Iowa stop

**T**he 20-day odyssey of a 68-foot spruce harvested from Wyoming's Bridger-Teton National Forest in Jackson and lighted Dec. 7 as the Capitol Christmas Tree, brought the tree, and the caravan accompanying it, through northern Iowa in late November.

Since 1964 there has been a Capitol Christmas Tree. Each year, cities along the tree's route to Washington, D.C. petition the government to be recognized along the journey. This year, Britt was selected as one of the celebration cities. While

the weather was not ideal, the city held a small celebration for the tree's arrival Sunday, Nov. 21, at 7:45 a.m.

A 10-person caravan began the trip from Wyoming to the Capitol Tuesday, Nov. 9. The logistics of transporting the 83-year old tree in an enclosed 81-foot trailer through many states can be daunting. The Iowa DOT's Motor Carrier Permit Center assisted the U.S. Forest Service in obtaining the permit and routed the vehicle through Iowa to its next destination in Missouri.

Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Officer Dan Nelson had the honor of escorting the tree as it arrived in Britt. Officer Nelson also assisted in escorting the tree out of Britt when it departed at 9:30 a.m. on its way to Missouri.

Onlookers at stops along the tree's route could view the foliage through plastic panels in the trailer. The tree was delivered to the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol, strung with LED lights and decorated with 5,000 handcrafted ornaments made by Wyoming school children reflecting the theme of Wyoming-Forever West.

Other Iowa DOTers involved in routing the tree through Iowa were Ned Lewis and Kevin Steele from Motor Vehicle Enforcement, and Phoumine Baccam, Tina Hargis and David Miller from Vehicle Services/Motor Carrier Services.



*Motor Vehicle Officer Dan Nelson escorts the jolly load through Iowa.*



*U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree making a stop in Britt.*

## New Rockwell City garage open for business

Famous Iowan Herbert Hoover was president of the United States the last time the Iowa State Highway Commission built a new garage in Rockwell City. "But in 1940, they did build an addition," jokes Rockwell City Highway Maintenance Supervisor Phil Heinlen.

The 1930s vintage garage measured a scant 3,700 square feet and had no room to store materials. The 1.5-acre garage site was landlocked by U.S. 20 and development of Rockwell City. A separate storage location was utilized, but the operational efficiency was poor. "The old shop was a pretty darn good shop for a lot of years," said Heinlen. "But as the trucks got bigger, there was just no space to work. The truck bays were not large enough to allow a truck in with the blade still mounted, so operators would have to drop the blade outside and then pull in."

This winter, a lot has changed for the seven full-time and six temporary winter employees at the Rockwell City garage. A new 15,000 square foot garage was completed this fall. Scott Gustafson from the Office of Support Services spearheaded the construction process. "The 15-acre site on the south side of town is large enough for the shop, a hoop building for salt storage and a brine-mixing facility that they have not had before. We had a great contractor and the construction process went very smoothly."



*The new Rockwell City maintenance garage will serve the needs of the Iowa DOT for decades to come.*

"It's a whole new world for us," said Heinlen. "The break room can be used for training and operators can pull trucks with plows right into the bays. We have four truck bays with parking for eight trucks, two mechanic bays and two wash bays. It's a huge improvement. Nobody wants to go back to the old shop."

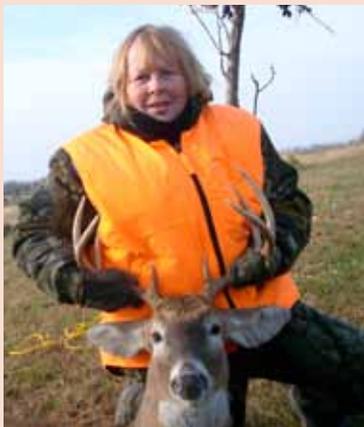
Gustafson said not only does the new garage help the employees be more efficient in their operations, the building itself is extremely efficient in energy use. He said, "There is an in-floor heating system and high-efficiency boilers. The lighting has occupancy sensors so the lights turn on when people are present and turn themselves off when no one is around."

When the first snow of the season hit in mid-November, Heinlen said the employees were able to fully appreciate the amenities of the new garage. "With the new facility and grounds, winter operations, and quite frankly most operations, are more efficient than before the new facility."

## Family happenings

### Operations and Finance

Sheri Anderson



Jana "Annie Oakley" Moreland, accounting technician 3 in Finance, bagged her first deer Nov. 20 in Missouri. Moreland's husband, Arnie, wanted to find time to spend together, so he bought Jana hunting gear. On their first weekend out, Jana could not hold Arnie's heavy rifle steady enough to get a good shot, so the

next week she bought herself a lighter gun and bagged an eight-point buck. Arnie came back to Iowa empty-handed.

### Design

Judy Lensing



Stacy Ryan, transportation engineer, and her husband, Jonathan, are the proud parents of a new baby boy. Kiernan Josef was born Nov. 26 weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 22 inches long. Baby Kiernan joins siblings Isaac, Nora and Emerick at home.



## Kudos!

*These are letters that have been submitted to the editor. They may have been edited for length and continuity.*

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT  
From: Harry Brown, Marion

I have been thinking about contacting you ever since my wife and I got back from a 12-state, 15-day driving trip through Minnesota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nevada, and the southwestern states back home to Marion, Iowa. What we saw in terms of traffic flow through construction areas, higher than safe speed zones, access from secondary roads to primary roads and even stop signs was deplorable. The Iowa DOT does many things the right way. One does not appreciate how good of a job your department does until you are exposed to other states' roads. My wife and I just wanted to say thanks for the safe Iowa roads.

To: Mark Lowe, Motor Vehicle Division  
From: Judy Wilson, Iowa Independent Automobile Dealers Association

We are very pleased with the depth of the study and with all who participated with the study. We think everyone learned a great deal of information that will prove to be useful in the future as the phased-in projects begin after legislative action. While the process is somewhat complex, we have a strong belief that it will all come together for everyone's benefit. Iowans are very fortunate to have all of the DOT staff looking out for their interests. Our association, not only got to know your people better, but gained an insight into the fairness, accuracy and dedication each of them brought forward as they worked with the study committee. You and ALL of your staff members are to be commended for a job VERY WELL DONE!!! Thank you for this opportunity.

(Editor's note: The study mentioned above related to implementation of a uniform statewide system allowing for electronic transactions for registration and titling of motor vehicles. It was a report to the Iowa Legislature, per section 2, Senate File 2273, 83rd General Assembly. The DOT met with several stakeholders for more than five months to gather the information for the report.)

To: Iowa DOT  
From: Amy Henson, Davenport

My son received a postcard yesterday from the Iowa DOT. At first I was a little skeptical, but after figuring out what it was for, I was so impressed. Great job. I hope this contest does exactly what you aimed for it to do - save teen lives - bravo!

(Editor's note: This thank you is in reference to the Sweet Ride on the Safe Side contest now in progress to educate younger drivers about Iowa's new texting and seat belt laws.)

To: Nancy Richardson, Iowa DOT  
From: Les Holland, Ames

The scheduled speaker for our Kiwanis Club had to cancel his appearance due to a death in the family. With Amtrak service being in the forefront of the news these days, I thought it would be of interest to our club to get a first-hand update on what is happening in Washington, D.C. and the Iowa Legislature to restore rail service in the Midwest. I called Tammy Nicholson to see if she would be available to give us an update on the Iowa DOT's effort. She readily accepted the invitation and gave an excellent presentation to an appreciative audience. She covered the service plans in a clear and concise manner and fielded many questions. I was impressed with her knowledge and presentation.

(Editor's note: Tammy Nicholson is the director of the Iowa DOT's Office of Rail Transportation.)

To: Iowa DOT  
From: Joan Wysoske, Bettendorf

On Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2010, I was northbound on Interstate 35 and at mile marker 208, I hit ice and spun out into the right-hand ditch. The motor vehicle enforcement officer who responded to my 911 call was extremely professional and nice to us. When he learned my mother, riding with me, was 95, he asked if an ambulance was needed, called the tow truck for us and returned to walk around the car and let us know we had no damage to the car or tires. He stayed with us until the tow truck came and checked again to see if we were alright before he left. We both appreciate his kindness, he reflects well on your organization.

(Editor's note: The motor vehicle enforcement officer involved in this incident was Jared Arbegast.)

To: John Adam, Highway Division  
From: Glenn and Genene Moss, Nichols

We would like to tell you about the terrific team you have at the Washington maintenance garage. Recently our mailbox was knocked off at the ground level. Within two hours of my phone call to the garage, the crew had assessed the problem and set up a temporary fix. Within 24 hours, they had installed a permanent pole for the mailbox.

Over the 19 years we have lived here, I have maybe called the Washington garage about six times regarding gravel, mailboxes or drainage along our ditch on Iowa 22. They always work us into their schedules in a timely manner. They are courteous, efficient and their response time is amazing. All 365 days each year they do a great job and we applaud them and their work ethic!

*Kudos, continued on next page*



## eFile your tax returns for the fastest refund

Receive your Iowa income tax refund in 10 days or less when you electronically file your tax return. You can e-file through the Iowa Department of Revenue website, file through a tax professional or purchase income tax software. Last year, 78 percent of Iowa income tax returns were e-filed.

Beginning Jan. 14, click the e-file logo on the Iowa Department of Revenue's website ([www.iowa.gov/tax/](http://www.iowa.gov/tax/)) for links to income tax software for online filing of federal and Iowa income tax returns, and to find out if you qualify to file for free. Then, follow the simple instructions to e-file! Online filing is fast, easy and secure.



### TIPS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

**T**he simple act of installing a storm door can increase energy efficiency by 45 percent, by sealing drafts and reducing air flow. Storm doors also offer greater flexibility for letting light and ventilation enter your home. Look for Energy Star-certified models. Similarly, storm windows can make a huge difference when the cold wind starts blowing.

While installing storm doors and windows might not be the most fun way to spend a weekend, the energy savings and cozy feel all winter is well worth the effort.

*Information adapted from [www.thedailygreen.com](http://www.thedailygreen.com)*

### *Kudos, continued from previous page*

To: Kim Snook, Office of Driver Services  
From: Powell Sims, Russell

I wish to thank you for sending Bill Bartelson for my driver's license exam. It was held in my home at Russell. He was a fine representative of the Iowa DOT, treating me and my wife with kindness. He then gave me a driving exam and did not make me feel uneasy throughout the driving or oral exam. I also want to thank you for another employee, Terry Elmore, who informed me as to what I had to do to receive my driver's license. They are both outstanding employees and understand my macular problem. I thank you for assigning Bill to my case.

I have driven for more than 60 years and think I have received only one ticket and been involved in only one crash when I was rear-ended while I was stopped at a red light in Pella. I am now able to drive restricted to 55 miles per hour, wearing my glasses and no driving when headlights are required. Thanks again!

To: Captain Tom Bruun, Motor Vehicle Enforcement  
From: Jefferey Danker, Pottawattamie County Sheriff

I want to thank you and your officers for your assistance with the standoff that occurred Sept. 16 in Avoca. Even though it did not end as we would have hoped, your help was vital to the safety of the citizens of Avoca and other officers at the scene. I appreciate your agency's willingness to assist and look forward to working with you in the future.

## Service awards

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for January 2011

### 40 years

**Doyle Jacobs**, Martensdale garage; **Benjamin Pasker**, Manchester construction

### 35 years

**Steven Mortvedt**, Information Technology Division

### 30 years

**Lonnie Ford**, Muscatine garage; **Larry Stepp**, De Soto garage

### 25 years

**Delmar Gettler**, District 4 bridge crew; **Steven Holland**, Design; **Dennis Perrin**, Cedar Rapids garage; **Todd Schroeder**, Tipton garage; **Danny Wichhart**, Creston garage; **Kendall Wiegand**, Urbana garage

### 20 years

**Dale Harris**, District 2 materials; **Richard Johnson**, District 4 paint crew; **Kurt Manus**, Design; **Francis Redeker**, District 5 Office; **Constance Redig**, Cedar Rapids DL station; **Amy Tinken**, Design; **Jerry Vanness**, Pacific Junction garage; **Michael Williams**, Ames garage; **Dereth Wyllie**, Creston construction

### 15 years

**Douglas Andrews**, Fort Dodge garage; **Wayne Copeland**, Denison garage; **Jon McCall**, Mount Pleasant construction; **Cherice Ogg**, Multimedia Services; **Marie Oman**, Cherokee construction; **Darrell Peery**, Newton garage; **Scott Sommers**, Chariton construction; **Barbara Steffen**, Dubuque DL station; **Chin-Ta Tsai**, Location and Environment

### 10 years

**David Adkins**, Donnellson garage; **Dane Bjugan**, Britt construction; **Todd Blum**, Avoca garage; **Phillip Brumm**, Osage garage; **Michael Fagen**, Des Moines garage; **Edward Greenman**, Right of Way; **Daniel Judge**, Materials; **Mark Kraayenbrink**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Randall Meyer**, Waverly garage; **Robert Mitchell**, Bridges and Structures; **Hollie Richey**, Right of Way; **Jason Ryan**, Decorah garage; **Virgil Schroeder**, DeWitt garage; **David Swanson**, Greenfield garage; **Barry Thede**, Grundy Center garage; **Eugene Welter**, Waterloo garage; **Robert Wortman**, District 3 Office

### 5 years

**Thad Bloom**, Carlisle garage; **John Colle**, Bridges and Structures; **Richard Crawley**, Highway Helper; **Nichole Dugan**, Information Technology Division; **Richard Duncan**, Ashton garage; **James Flattery**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Daniel Gohlinghorst**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Todd Hauge**, Williams garage; **Jason Heintz**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Lester Kirkpatrick**, Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Bart Lodge**, Allison garage; **Kate Murphy**, Operations and Finance Division; **Brent Paulsen**, Maintenance; **Lynn Roder**, Ashton garage

## Personnel updates

Information supplied by the Office of Employee Services for Oct. 29 to Nov. 25, 2010

### New hires

**Christina Eastridge**, clerk-advanced, driver services; **Caitlin Hagar**, program planner 1, Transportation Data; **Brian Hagy**, highway technician associate, Hanlontown garage; **Brandon Heilskov**, highway technician associate, Latimer garage; **Brent Kuhlman**, highway technician associate, Soldier garage; **Janese Milam**, clerk-specialist, Driver Services; **Matthew Oetker**, program planner 3, Location and Environment; **Kevin Speirs**, highway technician associate, Clarion garage; **David Sperflage**, highway technician senior; **Kevin Sullivan**, highway technician associate, De Soto garage; **John Svendsen**, highway technician associate, West Union garage; **Terisa Thomas**, program planner 3, Location and Environment; **Charles Werner**, highway technician associate, Hanlontown garage; **Dennis Whittle**, highway technician associate, West Union garage; **Christopher Wirth**, sign fabricator 1, Traffic and Safety

### Promotions

**James Armstrong**, from transportation engineer specialist to transportation engineer administrator, District 5 Office; **Laura Brown**, from right-of-way aide 4 to right-of-way agent 2, Right of Way; **Bradley Fleming**, from highway technician associate, Ames garage to highway maintenance supervisor, Manchester garage; **Bradley Hofer**, from transportation engineer specialist to transportation engineer administrator, Location and Environment; **Nickolas Humpal**, from transportation engineer intern to transportation engineer, Design; **Jeffrey Huntsman**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Creston construction; **Troy Jerman**, from senior transportation engineer, Traffic and Safety to transportation engineer executive, District 5 Office; **Jeff King**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Creston construction; **Todd McCullough**, from construction technician to construction technician senior, Creston construction; **Brian Pribyl**, from equipment operator senior to garage operations assistant, Osceola garage; **Khashi Reyes**, from highway technician associate to equipment operator senior, Des Moines garage; **David Roorda**, from highway technician associate, Carlisle garage to mechanic, Maintenance; **Fred Thiede**, from garage operations assistant to highway maintenance supervisor, Davenport garage; **LaDana Sogard**, from secretary 1, Design to secretary 2, Bridges and Structures; **Jeremey Vortherms**, from transportation engineer specialist to transportation engineer administrator, Traffic and Safety; **Ryan Ward**, from executive officer 1 to transportation planner 2, Public Transit; **Justin Yoder**, from highway technician associate to highway technician, Coralville garage

*Personnel updates, continued on next page*

*Santa sighting*



*Santa (Alan Atwood) and an elf (Sandi Byers) magically appeared in District 6 recently to say Merry Christmas!*

*Personnel updates, continued from previous page*

## Transfers

**Tami Bailiff**, secretary 2, from Research and Technology Bureau to Right of Way; **Gretchen Caryl**, secretary 1, from Cedar Rapids construction to District 6 Office; **Chad Curnes**, highway technician associate, from De Soto garage to Knoxville garage; **Kevin Galloway**, accountant 2, within Finance; **Joseph Hovey**, highway technician, from Fairfield garage to Washington garage; **Andrew Lewis**, highway technician associate, from Des Moines garage to Altoona garage; **Tamie Peterson**, highway technician associate, from Clarinda garage to Avoca garage; **Russell Pyle**, equipment operator senior, from Newton garage to Marshalltown garage; **Ray Ringgenberg**, design technician specialist, from Traffic and Safety to Design; **Kathryn Scott**, information technology specialist 2, within Information Technology Division; **Paul Strecker**, motor vehicle office, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Neil Suckow**, motor vehicle office, within Motor Vehicle Enforcement; **Jennifer Teymer**, driver's license clerk, from Council Bluffs DL station to Cedar Rapids station

## Retirements

None

# INSIDE

**INSIDE** is developed to help keep all Iowa DOT employees informed about critical issues affecting them, recognize DOT employees for their excellent service and share interesting aspects in the lives of our co-workers. For more information, contact Tracey Bramble, Office of Media and Marketing Services, at 515-239-1314 or e-mail [tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov](mailto:tracey.bramble@dot.iowa.gov).

**Nancy J. Richardson**, Director

**Tracey Bramble**, Multimedia Services, editor

**Christina Andersen**, Multimedia Services, desktop publisher

**Printing Staff**, Multimedia Services, printing



**Iowa Department of Transportation**

800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010 • 515-239-1372



**PLEASE RECYCLE THIS ISSUE**

**On the cover:** Iowa's state capitol building in Des Moines

**January I-Spy clue:** Absent spherical architecture

**December I-Spy solution:** There is a seal on the rocks at the lower left side of the photo.

Service Area	Correspondent	Phone
District 1 .....	<b>Lori Wilkens</b> , Des Moines .....	515-261-9500
District 2 .....	<b>Lu Mohorne</b> , Mason City .....	641-423-7584
District 3 .....	<b>MaryBeth Banta</b> , Sioux City .....	712-276-1451
District 4 .....	<b>Marlene Jensen</b> , Atlantic .....	712-243-3355
District 5 .....	<b>Brenda Hadley</b> , Fairfield .....	641-472-6142
District 6 .....	<b>Sandi Byers</b> , Cedar Rapids .....	319-364-0235
Bridges and Structures .....	<b>Judy Whitney</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7917
Construction .....	<b>Nancy McMenamin</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1353
Contracts .....	<b>Peg Muxfeldt</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1422
Design .....	<b>Judy Lensing</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1469
General Counsel .....	<b>Chris Crow</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1509
Information Technology Division .....	<b>Colette Simpson</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7728
Local Systems .....	<b>Gail Nordholm</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1528
Location and Environment .....	<b>Susie McCullough</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1225
Maintenance .....	<b>Cindy Shipley</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1971
Materials .....	<b>Brian Squier</b> , Ames .....	515-233-7915
Modal offices .....	<b>Cathy Mather</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1140
Motor Vehicle Division .....	<b>Diann McMillen</b> , Ankeny .....	515-237-3250
Operations and Finance Division .....	<b>Sheri Anderson</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1340
Research and Technology Bureau .....	<b>Tami Bailiff</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1646
Right of Way .....	<b>Tami Bailiff</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1216
Systems Planning .....	<b>Peggy Riecken</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1664
Traffic and Safety .....	<b>Stephanie Anderson</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1746
Transportation Data .....	<b>Jodi Clement</b> , Ames .....	515-239-1289

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## No rocking chair in sight

**A**h, retirement ... all your days spent in a rocking chair on the front porch or maybe playing cards at the community center, right? That quiet life was not even a consideration for Dale Vander Schaaf who retired June 24 as an executive officer 2 in Policy and Legislative Services.

Vander Schaaf has been active in nonprofit, grassroots community housing organizations on a part-time basis for many years. "Retirement from the DOT gave me the opportunity to take on the nonprofit work full time," he said.

As president of the Story County Community Housing Corporation, Vander Schaaf's focus the past year has been on construction of a house in Ames to be marketed to a low- or moderate-income homeowner. The house, located at 620 12th St., has several unique qualities. It was constructed on land owned by the Story County Community Housing Corporation's land trust by the building trades classes at Des Moines Area Community College's (DMACC) Career Academy Hunziker Center. These classes teach construction skills to high school students from several

central Iowa schools. "This is the second house we have built with the DMACC students," said Vander Schaaf. "They also helped out on a larger apartment complex with three units of approximately 1,400 square feet each. They are enthusiastic about what they are doing and really do a great job."

The new 1,050-square foot house on 12th Street features hardwood floors and an open layout, but the most interesting feature is the solar electric generation system. "This is the first house in Iowa to use solar photovoltaic power," said Vander Schaaf, who obtained a \$12,000 grant from the Iowa Office of Energy Independence to fund this part of the project. He said, "The cells are a thin film that was adhered to the metal roof on the south side of the house that was designed to maximize exposure to the sun. In the attic, the energy is collected and transformed from DC to AC current. We expect the solar cells will produce enough energy to reduce the use of city electricity by 35 to 50 percent."

Vander Schaaf continued, "Even though the entire house is electric, including the furnace, we expect the utility bills to be very low because of the solar cells and high insulation value. When the house produces more

energy than the occupants are using, the surplus energy goes back to the city grid and the homeowner will get credit for it. The meter on the house actually goes backwards.

As part of the deal negotiated with the solar cell manufacturer, the energy production and use at the house can be monitored from the Internet. "This provides data for the company to use to market the cells elsewhere, so it is a benefit to them. They have also agreed to include any upgrades in technology and a 20-year warranty on the cells and equipment," said Vander Schaaf.

Vander Schaaf says there is an offer to purchase the house, but it is contingent on the sale of the owner's current property. "We're happy about being able to provide this level of quality for a low price," he said. "Because some of the materials were donated and the DMACC students provided so much of the labor, the selling price is far below market value for Ames. And because the land under the house is part of a land trust, the new owner can either pay more and purchase the land and the home, or just purchase the home and lease the land for 99 years."

In talking about his work with the nonprofit organization, Vander Schaaf said, "How could I not do this? I felt I had the skills to lead this organization and it's a way for me to give back to the community."

