



# THE DGS DIGEST

## CONGRATULATIONS CHUCK KNECHT! DGS OCTOBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Chuck Knecht, the DGS October 2018 Employee of the Month! Chuck is an Environmental Technician in our Facilities Maintenance Division and has been with the Department of General Services for two years. Chuck's ability to work well under pressure and willingness to take on extra duties makes him deserving of this month's recognition.

Several months of heavy and unusual rain events tasked FMD with a great number of weather-related building issues. Increased responsibility was placed upon FMD staff and Chuck performed admirably under the pressure of working simultaneously in several properties while maintaining daily monitoring. Not only did he attend to each complaint, but he went a step further to conduct additional assessments to determine the source of the issues and provide long term resolutions.

While working one evening to oversee a contractor on the 4th floor of City Hall, it began to rain heavily and Chuck took it upon himself to check a location in the basement of the building which was known to leak. Water was indeed entering the building, but we were able to have a contractor on-site to address the problem before others were even aware. If Chuck hadn't taken the initiative, the damage could have been much worse.

Self motivated, Chuck took it upon himself to extract water from carpets in the City Hall tunnel without being asked. He regularly uses his own tools and supplies to complete jobs and is always willing to take on extra duties or responsibilities.

Thank you, Chuck, for your hard work. You are a great example of DGS commitment to getting things done!

## FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TAKES THE LEAD INSTALLS FIRST CHANGING TABLE IN CITY HALL

Earlier this month the City Council unanimously passed a "Diaper Changing Bill" that will require that changing tables be accessible within City buildings. Preemptive to the passing of the bill, DGS Facilities Maintenance Division installed the first diaper-changing station in City Hall, near the first-floor lactation room. The legislation only requires the amenity to be provided in new or renovated public restrooms. However, DGS is taking a pro-active, family-friendly approach by installing units in numerous City properties with hopes to create more safe and sanitary environments for staff and visitors to change their children's diapers.

Local media and Councilman Isaac "Yitzzy" Schleifer were on-site as FMD staff installed the first unit. The Councilman retweeted the news coverage saying, "Thank you Baltimore DGS for expeditiously installing this changing station."

Kudos to our Facilities Maintenance staff for their swift and high-quality work; you represented DGS well, thank you!



## FLEET COOK OUT



As a part of the DGS United Way campaign, staff who donated \$5 could wear a costume to work on Halloween! Thank you to all the staff who donated and came into work to show off their costumes. It was a great opportunity to have some Halloween fun and raise money for a good cause.

Light up the grill! Earlier this month, Fleet Management hosted their annual cookout. Staff from across all over the department flocked to Fleet's Central Garage to share a burger and a laugh. Tony was on the grill keeping everyone happy as the staff ate over 200 hamburgers! We were lucky to have Chief of Operations Pete Hammen stop by the event. It was a great afternoon; management was able to thank the staff for all their hard work over the past year. Now we can start to look forward to the Fleet holiday party!

# DIRECTOR'S CUP 2018



Congrats to our 2018 Bocce Runner-Ups: Leandre Bowling and Sagirah Palmer



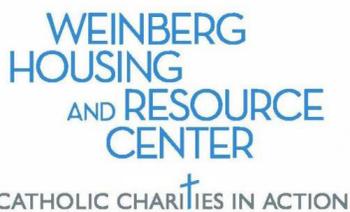
Congrats to our 2018 Cornhole winners: Davor Dragovic and Deni Vidovic!



Congrats to our 2018 Bocce winners: Babila Lima and Berke Atilla

On Friday, October 26th, the Director's Cup was held on the War Memorial Plaza. This year the tournament grew to more than 30 participants from all four divisions across two team-based activities: Bocce and Cornhole. It was a great opportunity to let loose, enjoy some friendly competition and drink a cup of hot apple cider. By the end of the event, DGS raised over \$400 for our United Way campaign!

## UPCOMING: DGS DAY OF SERVICE 2018



On November 19th, DGS will be partnering with the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center to perform our annual Day of Service. Volunteers will help clean windows, sweep around the building, or serve meals at the shelter. If you are interested in volunteering,

please email Sagirah Palmer at (410) 396-8992. If you are unable to participate but want to support the shelter and day of service, please donate goods for the homeless residents. Collection boxes are placed on each DGS floor in Abel Wolman and at the Fleet Central Garage. A list of desirable items can be found on the boxes. If you have questions about donations please contact Ryan Trout at (410) 396-4069.

## UNITED WAY KICK OFF DGS CELEBRATES ON WAR MEMORIAL PLAZA



This month Mayor Pugh kicked off the City's annual United Way Campaign with an afternoon celebration on the War Memorial Plaza. There were food trucks, music, dancing, and a photo op with the Ravens' mascot, Poe! You could even catch Director Sharkey on the lawn throwing around a football; it was a great opportunity for DGS staff to relax and donate to a great cause. The event raised over \$22,000 and was a great success. Don't forget to turn in your pledge card and stay tuned as DGS will be hosting some really fun United Way fundraising events over the next few months!

## CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY AT THE WMB



On Sunday, November 11th, the Baltimore City Veterans Commission will be hosting a Veterans Day parade to honor the men and women who have fought to protect this country. As a part of the celebration, the War Memorial Building will be hosting veterans, their families, and the general public for a luncheon. Over 600 people are expected to attend! DGS is proud to be able to host so many of our nation's heroes this Veterans Day.

## HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

#### NON CIVIL SERVICE POSITIONS

<b>IDOSA AREKHANDI</b>	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
<b>OLAJIDE ARODOYE</b>	ADMINISTRATION
<b>ANVIT GOYAL</b>	ADMINISTRATION
<b>ANTHONY HAMILTON</b>	FACILITIES MAINTENANCE
<b>BRIAN MORGAN</b>	MAJOR PROJECTS
<b>DEVIN PATTERSON</b>	MAJOR PROJECTS
<b>LEROY TATE</b>	FLEET MANAGEMENT

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

**LORRAINE SMITH** 39 YEARS OF SERVICE

## AWARDS

Congrats to DGS' own Chichi Nyagah-Nash, former Deputy Division Chief for Fleet Management, and Melanie Shimano, Data Automation & Technology Analyst, for their recognition by the Maryland Daily Record! This award recognizes women who've made huge career strides, alongside a commitment to volunteering.



**Chichi Nyagah-Nash**, in her role as the Deputy Division Chief for Fleet Management, spearheaded the City's first gainsharing program. She was integral in the Master Lease Program and worked to bring new talent into Fleet through an apprenticeship program with city high schools. In her free time, Chichi serves as president of the board for Friends of Great Kids Farm, a local non-profit.

**Melanie Shimano** is working to help solve civic-tech problems within City government while streamlining processes for DGS workflows. In her work with the Code for the City program, and co-leading the Python for City Government Meetup, she has been helping push DGS into a more technologically driven direction.



Follow Us  
@BaltimoreDGS

