



THE DGS DIGEST

Congratulations Azza Rizkallah DGS's Employee of the Month Recipient for November 2017!

Congratulations to Azza Rizkallah, DGS's November Employee of the Month! Azza has worked her entire City career with the Department of General Services and the Major Projects Division, having joined the department in 2010.

Azza's first job with DGS was as an assistant to the Deputy Director. She joined Major Projects when the Chief of Major Projects, offered her a position on the team as Contract Administrator II. Azza felt working with Major Projects would allow her to positively affect the daily lives of City Employees. She is committed to the work of Major Projects "... which is keeping the City buildings in good shape to provide healthy workplaces and better work life for my coworkers."

When she isn't at work she loves baking and cooking. She is also loves watching sports and is a huge Ravens fan. Azza is married with four kids, she has three daughters and one son who is the youngest of the bunch at 13.

Currently, Azza is tackling a big challenge: she has ten projects going on concurrently, and must keep track of every detail and meet all their respective deadlines. What gives her satisfaction in her work is the balance of so many tasks and never missing a deadline.



Azza accepting her Employee of the Month Certificate with John Friesner, Director Sharkey, and Bambi Stevens

Employee Spotlight- Bernard Scales

Bernard Scales has been a DGS Employee for 10 years as Public Building Repairer. Bernard keeps a positive attitude, when asked is he loves his job he replied, "[If] you don't like a job, you won't do a good job". Working everyday to make sure every building in his care is maintained to his standards, he makes sure we all have pleasant places to work. A clean building has become a Bernard Scales quality signature.



Bernard Scales has been with DGS for 10 years

As a Public Building Repairer, his responsibilities are maintaining the inside and outside of our building; some of the buildings he works at are City Hall, Benton Building, Abel Wolman Municipal Building, and the Weinberg Housing and Resource Center. The work is not always glamorous and can sometimes be challenging. From minor plumbing repairs routine curb appeal at City Hall, Benton Building, to carpentry/painting of offices and essential electrical tasks. Bernard is a key team player and is a major factor in the day-to day operations of Facilities Maintenance. It is the attentive work ethic of DGS employees like Bernard that unceremoniously support the work of agencies across this great city.

Bernard has lived in Baltimore all his life and has always been drawn to repairs and maintenance. Every year as a child he helped his street win the Afro Clean Block Award, an award given by the Afro Newspaper to the cleanest Baltimore street. He said he would scrub the sidewalk by hand and re-paint his neighbors homes to help snag the win. When working as a handyman around Baltimore before coming to DGS Bernard never needed business cards as he was so well known and trusted for his work; people knew who to call to get something fixed.

Hopkins Symphony Orchestra is coming back to the War Memorial Building!



On Sunday, December 3, at 3 PM the HSO will be at the War Memorial. HSO, joined by the JHU and Baltimore School for the Arts choruses, and vocal soloists Monica Reinagel and Jason Buckwalter and our very own Willem Elsevier and Evan Cook will play the Durufle Requiem, works by Brahms including Tragic Overture, and Haydn Variations. **City employees will receive half off the \$14 general admission tickets at the door.**

New Hires and Promotions at DGS

New Hires	
Vincent Campbell	Laborer
Rosie Crowder	Motor Vehicle Driver
Derrick McCorvey	Community Aide
Fred Ramirez	Public Building Maintenance Coordinator
Morris Walker	Mechanic Apprentice
Melanie Shimano	Data Automation and Technology Analyst
Promotions	
Steve Shifflett	Stores Superviors I Auto Part

Fleet Car and Engine Donated to Area School



Edmondson-Westside High and DGS Staff around the donated engine

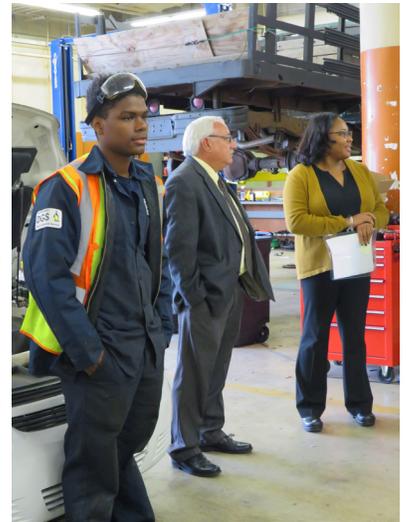
The City of Baltimore's Department of General Services (DGS)'s Fleet Management Division (Fleet Management) donated a vehicle engine and a sedan to the Westside Skill Center at Edmondson-Westside High School. The Department has spent the last two years forging partnerships with the local automotive technical programs within the Baltimore City Public School System. This partnership now takes the form of vehicle donations, curriculum development, work-study, and mutually supportive apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Charles Fleet, Assistant Instructor of the Westside auto class, indicated that he will use the engine and vehicle for hands-on learning, by dismantling or disabling different components while expecting the students to diagnose and repair the simulated problem.

In 2016, Fleet Management developed a partnership with Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical (commonly referred to as Mervo), Forest Park, and Edmondson-Westside high schools. The work study program has a paid Internship (\$11.50 starting rate) that can develop into an apprenticeship program in which participants are considered full-time Baltimore City Employees (benefits and starting salary of \$32,875). Several employees of Fleet Management, including those at the supervisory level, joined DGS Fleet through this partnership in the 1990s, and are testaments to its success.

One of those success stories is Anton Wilson, he said, "Joining Fleet Management through the Work Study program allowed me to hone my skills and prepared me for the real world." Wilson is now an Automotive Maintenance Supervisor within the Division. Currently, DGS hosts three full-time work study mechanics, four part-time work-study mechanics, and one part-time work-study welder. Five of the students are from Mervo, while the remaining three are from the Westside Skill Center. Bob Gibson, Fleet Management's divisions Chief, recognized that if DGS offers students in this program needed work-based learning then upon graduating they would be prepared for employment opportunities within the City.

In these programs, the students work alongside Fleet's automotive professionals learning a wide range of diagnostic, installation, maintenance, and repair skills. Through hands on work and classroom training students are exposed to a wide variety of vehicle types from sedans to fire trucks. According to Chichi Nyagah-Nash, Fleet Management's Deputy Chief, "When I talk to the students about their experience here ...they recognize and appreciate the opportunity to be working shoulder to shoulder with experienced technicians. This... provides [Fleet] the opportunity to expose them to the expectations of the workplace."



Jerry, a former Edmondson-Westside student and current Fleet apprentice talks to a class about the program

DGS Data Analyst Heads to SXSW

Have you ever grown food inside of a computer? Although the concept sounds like a George Orwell novel, a food computer is not science fiction. DGS's Melanie Shimano has been bringing her Food Computer Program to schools in Baltimore City since January 2017. The success of the Program is taking Melanie to South by Southwest (SXSW) in 2018. SXSW is a conference and festival in Austin Texas that brings music, food and technology together. The lectures and classes are known for their innovative ideas. It's exciting to see a DGS team member as a part of this conference.



Melanie will be attending SXSW in 2018

So, what is a food computer? Shimano explains that a food computer is a "tabletop greenhouse with sensors....you can basically create any climate you want inside the computer....and grow vegetables, fruit, even flowers inside of it." The food computer was a concept created by MIT Media Lab Open Agriculture Initiative (OpenAg), this group has done the research on how to make a working food computer and the information is free for anyone to access. Shimano says, "Baltimore has a lot of food systems challenges, food deserts, and food inequality. It would be a really cool tool to teach Baltimore kids how technology relates to real life. If we built a food computer farm in an area that is a food desert how would that give people access to healthy food?"

Melanie has been working at DGS since September 2017 and is a part of the Business Process Improvement Office in our Administration Department. While at DGS the Melanie has been working to help streamline data information and she has been finding common ground between her Food Computer Program and her work at

DGS: "How to use data and technology effectively is the common theme in what I am doing right now," she said.

Currently, the Food Computer Program is running at two schools in Baltimore City, Green St. Academy and Gwynns Falls Elementary. Using co-teaching and hands-on learning, the classes have been an entry point for students who otherwise would never have learned robotics and computer coding.



Students inspect the crops inside their food computer

FOLLOW US



@BALTIMOREDGS

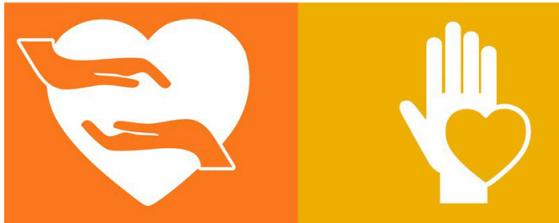
United Way campaign –
tis the season of giving



The United Way of Central Maryland (UWCM) is committed helping families facing poverty obtain access to housing, employment, health, affordable food and healthcare, and a quality education. For more than 90 years they have worked with leading health and human service providers across our region and have identified the most effective strategies to improve the most lives. And with your help, the United Way can continue to help more people.

Over the past three years, UWCM has improved the lives of the most vulnerable in our region, and in doing so, established momentum and greater visibility for our work. They use 2-1-1 and other data sources to a much greater degree in decision making, and are requiring more accountability of themselves and their funded partners. UWCM is becoming recognized for their leadership and expertise in the areas of information and referral services, homelessness prevention, and poverty. They are trusted to convene stakeholders from across the region to tackle important issues together. And are engaging college students, young professionals and other affinity groups in ways they never have in the past.

The impact and momentum has also been propelled through region-wide initiatives targeting family stability, access to healthy food and grade-level reading for young children. Their six partnership boards have played a critical role in addressing gaps within each jurisdiction for those living at or near the federal poverty level.



Ultimately, a thriving region requires strong neighborhoods. Strong neighborhoods consist of stable, self-sufficient families. UWCM's premise remains: Baltimore wins when students succeed in school, families are financially stable and people are healthy.

.....
DGS can help by giving this season to the United Way Campaign. Talk to Sagirah Palmer, Olivia Baker, Lenora Witherspoon, or Shaquita Gause to give a generous donation this season.

MITTEN TREE DONATIONS
WE'RE ACCEPTING MITTENS, HATS & SCARVES
DGS EMPLOYEES SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

LOOK OUT FOR STAFF COMING AROUND THE **WEEK OF DEC 4TH**, FOR DGS DONATIONS. OR STOP BY THE BOX ON THE 7TH FLOOR TO DROP OFF ANY DONATIONS.

MITTEN TREE DONATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH
December 20th

JUDGING DECEMBER 22nd
Enter as a **GROUP** or an **INDIVIDUAL**

START DECORATING DECEMBER 1st

ALL DGS EMPLOYEES ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEARS....
HOLIDAY DESK & DOOR DECORATING CONTEST

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE THE NEXT EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH? NOMINATE THEM TODAY!

There are 2 ways you can nominate your co-worker, staff or team member:

- 1. Hand Ballots located throughout General Services**
- 2. Email DGS_HR@BALTIMORECITY.GOV**

Direct questions regarding the Employee of the Month process to Catherine Burns in the Human Resources Office (410) 396-3627