

## **Congratulations** to the following new deputy registrars (DRs) who began their contracts on June 25:

- Abigail Fellenstein – Ashtabula Co., Ashtabula
- Martin Thompkins – Cuyahoga Co., University Heights
- Kimberly Scott – Hardin Co., Kenton
- Robert Denman II – Licking Co., Johnstown
- Amanda Grubb – Marion Co., Marion
- Jon Dagenbach – Montgomery Co., Huber Heights
- Deborah Witek – Portage Co., Streetsboro
- Alan Harold, Stark Co., Auditor – Stark Co., North Canton
- Teresa Kroetz – Williams Co., Bryan

## **Kudos to the BMV Investigations Staff from Chief of Investigations Ted Wendling:**

To **Mike Russo and Mark Hoy** for their diligent and thorough multi-pronged investigation of misconduct at Agency 1804 (Euclid), which led to the closure of the agency. The investigation began on Jan. 31, 2001, when two employees at the agency were fired after admitting they provided BASS screen shots to a runner for a used-car dealer in Cleveland. In the following weeks and months, Mike and Mark, with the assistance of investigators from the State Highway Patrol, also discovered the DR routinely “borrowed” money from his state account to cover personal debts and then reimbursed the funds using money from the following day’s proceeds. They further discovered the DR and his employees routinely signed applications for a DL or ID card without verifying the primary or secondary documents.

To **Sarah Burton** for helping to take a dangerous fugitive off the streets. On April 4, a person attempted to obtain an Ohio ID Card from Agency 2503 (E. Main St., Columbus) using a Puerto Rican birth certificate and numident printout. The clerk kept the person’s documents after noticing that a different person had obtained a temporary driving permit in November using the same name and identifiers. After calling Puerto Rico to obtain a photograph, Sarah learned Puerto Rican authorities had a arrest warrant for a murder charge on this person. They told Sarah they would extradite if she could have him arrested. With the assistance of Darren Lucas and State Highway Patrol troopers, the fugitive was arrested upon arriving for a meeting with Sarah at Alum Creek.

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To **Bill Leach**, for his contribution to the Multi-Agency Police Saturation (MAPS) “pill mill” operation that the State Highway Patrol, Bureau of Workers Compensation and other agencies conducted in Scioto County. In February and March, Bill spent several days assembling information packets for the task



## Kudos to the BMV Investigations Staff from Chief of Investigations Ted Wendling: (continued from page 1)

force on known felons and drug dealers in the area. Following the arrest of two people on charges of operating a mobile meth lab out of their car, Bill also researched and provided information packets on suspects linked to 15 IDs and seven SS cards that were found in the vehicle. In a letter of appreciation, Patrol Lt. K.M. Taulbee wrote: "Apologies for taking Bill away from his BMV duties for several days, but the work he accomplished for me, I could not have completed."

To **Tim Hughes**, for his efforts to bring a thief to justice. In July 2000, Randy Mullins, a former used-car salesman from Delaware County, was indicted in Marion County on charges of bribery and tampering with records based on Tim's investigation. Mullins fled the state that month and was not heard of again by law enforcement authorities for nearly 11 years – until last month, when he was arrested in Illinois and brought back to Ohio. Alerted by Jennifer Shaw to Mullins' arrest in Illinois and impending arraignment in Marion County, Tim began assembling records and background on the case for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. Despite Tim's best efforts, the prosecutor opted to allow Mullins to plead no contest to a misdemeanor and dismissed the other charges.

To **Ed Eckert**, who risked being turned into a grease spot by an irate used-car dealer in Hamilton as Ed was examining the VIN on the dealer's personal BMW (this was after Ed unbolted the angry dealer's dealer plate, which had an expired tag). As Ed was leaning over the hood, the dealer started his vehicle and was preparing to drive off with Ed as a hood ornament when an attentive Hamilton police officer interceded and persuaded the dealer to turn off the ignition.

To **Duane Sunagel, Mark Hoy, Robert Gallo, Barry Solomon and Michael Workman** for their assistance on a series of search warrants on Cleveland's west side that targeted what Cleveland police are calling one of the largest auto-theft ring busts in city history. Working with the CPD, FBI, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department and Highway Patrol, BMV Investigations assisted in raids on six different locations. In conjunction with the searches, the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office unsealed a 258-count indictment against 35 people that accused the defendants of crimes ranging from racketeering to tampering with records to involuntary manslaughter. BMV Investigations didn't get mentioned in the ensuing media coverage, but our law enforcement colleagues certainly appreciated our assistance and expertise.

This is just a small sampling of the good work you've all been doing. Thanks so much and keep it up!

## Donate Life America awards national highest achievement medal to Ohio BMV.

Ohio was one of six states receiving a gold medal award for achievement in donor designation. The gold medal designation comes from Donate Life America, a national nonprofit organization promoting organ donation across the country. The award recognizes states that are leading the way in enlisting their residents as organ donors.



In addition to Ohio, Colorado, Louisiana, Utah, Washington and Wyoming received gold medals. States receiving gold medals reached the top tier in five key categories including:

- 50 percent or greater donor designation rate (Ohio is 55.2%);
- 50 percent or more of the state residents age 18 and older registered as donors (Ohio is 56%); and
- at least 40 percent of organ, eye and tissue donors authorized through state donor registries (Ohio is 54% for organ donors, 58% for tissue donors and 55% for eye donors).





## Steven Pontius

*Customer Services Assistant 2, Dealer Licensing Section*

Our Spotlight Employee this quarter is Steven Pontius. Duke Hobson said the

following about him:

“Steve is a very hard-charging and productive employee. His attitude, work ethic, and approach to the daily office grind help to make him a “person of interest” and one of the BMV’s staunchest supporters.”

Steven worked for the State of Ohio for approximately nine years. He has served with the Dealer Licensing Section for nearly seven years. He currently is a Customer Service Assistant II. The thing he likes most about his job is the customer interaction. He considers himself a

people person and enjoys speaking with auto dealers and other customers who call into the phone center.

He has many different interests. He enjoys cooking, yard work, and his family and pets, which include two rescue dogs (Tater and Mater) and two parrots (Bach and Bernie) with an extremely large vocabulary.

He considers himself a very happy and sincere person.

His favorite quote is “When people show you who they are, believe them,” by Maya Angelo.

*If you would like to nominate someone to be featured as next quarter’s Spotlight Employee, please contact Lindsey Bohrer at (614) 752-6585 or [LRBohrer@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:LRBohrer@dps.state.oh.us)*

## Operation Feed 2011 Totals

Event	Money Collected	Meals Provided	Can Count
Parking Spots 5/2/11	\$50	100	
Bake Sale 4/13/11	\$161	322	
Parking Spots 4/4	\$200	400	
Bike	\$83	166	
Dessert Auction - EMA	\$420	840	
Personal Dotation	\$20	40	
Book are fun	\$332	664	
Bake Sale		0	
Island Daze	\$10	20	
Director's Office Donation	\$180	360	
Nickle and Dime	\$104	208	
Auction of bicycle Art Kitzmiller in LEADS	\$83	166	
Golf	\$89	178	
Chocolate Candy Sale Michael Deschaine	\$1,200	2,400	
Pasta - Deb Thigpen	\$129	259	
Change Bucket	\$180	361	
KUDOS day - April Garner, Mel Gnosa & Deb Swayne	\$61	121	
Personal Dotation	\$100	200	
Change Bucket	\$79	158	
Operation Feed (Treasurer's fundraisers only)	\$452	904	<b>7,866</b>

**Operation Feed 2011 Totals**

Event	Money Collected	Meals Provided	Can Count
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**Dress Down Money Collection (Fridays)**

12/10-3/19/11	\$4,467	8,934	
3/25/2011	\$416	832	
4/1/2011	\$858	1,716	
4/8/2011	\$824	1,648	
4/15/2011	\$572	1,144	
4/22/2011	\$888	1,776	
4/29/2011	\$671	1,342	
5/6/2011	\$1,106	2,212	
5/13/2011	\$405	810	
5/20/2011	\$810	1,620	
5/27/2011	\$457	914	
6/3/2011	\$619	1,238	

Checks to Mid-Ohio Food Bank

**24,186**

**OHP District and Central Offices Money & Can Donation**

4/1/2011	\$32	101	37
4/8/2011	\$89	247	69
4/15/2011	\$57	386	272
4/22/2011	\$203	730	324
4/29/2011	\$233	703	237
5/6/2011	\$127	390	136
5/13/2011	\$285	692	122
6/17/2011		-	

**3,247**

**DR Weekly Totals**

3/11/2011	\$31	62	
3/18/2011	\$80	160	
3/25/2011	\$1,645	3,290	
4/1/2011	\$3,443	6,886	
4/8/2011	\$3,223	6,501	56
4/15/2011	\$2,100	4,256	57
4/22/2011	\$4,670	9,341	
4/29/2011	\$2,837	5,842	168
5/6/2011	\$2,142	4,486	202
5/13/2011	\$3,223	6,560	115
5/20/2011	\$1,160	2,321	0
5/27/2011	\$5,569	11,867	729
6/17/2011			

**61,572**

**Grand Totals \$47,176 96,872 2,521 96,872**

**Goal 2011 33,687**

**To Go -63,185**