Dear Fellow Employee,

Although the new Driver License Fraud unit will primarily focus on external fraud, all employees should be aware that internal DL fraud will be investigated thoroughly. Anyone found to have perpetrated driver license fraud will be prosecuted.

All of us at DPS, whether commissioned or not, are the face of law enforcement in Texas. Our good reputation is a testament to the decades of hard work done by everyone at DPS. However, when one of us breaks a law or behaves dishonestly, all of us at DPS are diminished. Our integrity—personal and departmental—is the most important possession we own. Don’t throw it away.

On June 13, the Department family suffered yet another loss when Tr. II Stanley Avery and his son were among those killed in an off-duty traffic crash outside of Sulphur Springs on IH-30. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Tr. Avery’s family. This tragic wreck is a reminder to us to hug our children and hold our families close.

-- Thomas A. Davis Jr.

Driver License Division establishes DL fraud investigation unit

In January, the Driver License Division implemented a Fraud Unit, creating a team dedicated to eliminating fraudulent activity involving driver licensing and applicant identity. This initiative is one of many strategies the agency has launched to prevent internal and external attempts at fraud.

“Securing identity has become a recurring theme in business today,” said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of DPS. “We are sending a clear message that fraudulent crimes will be detected and prosecuted.”

The Fraud Unit’s mission is to eliminate identification fraud in the state of Texas through successful prosecution of violators, to deter and identify criminals involved in fraud, and to develop procedures to assist in the elimination of identity fraud.

The new Driver License Division (DLD) unit, lead by Maj. Larry Cuny and Lt. Robby Sells, has been busy defining specific job responsibilities related to investigative efforts concerning fraud, counterfeit documents, identity theft, and possible corruption.

In April, the Fraud Unit added nine troopers to investigate reports of driver license fraud and identity theft. These troopers are stationed in Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and McAllen. Six analysts also were hired to assist the unit.

Lt. Sells recently attended the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrator’s (AAMVA) Fraudulent Document Recognition Training course to become certified as a fraudulent document instructor. In April, he conducted the first training course for the Fraud Unit troopers and select DL field troopers.

DL Chief Judy E. Brown emphasized the importance of employee awareness and accountability.

“I consider the integrity of our internal processes and personnel of paramount importance. It is not acceptable to promote a fraudulent act, allow one to take place or dismiss one that you may have witnessed,” she said.

“Our objective is to raise employee awareness to better recognize suspi-

continued on page 3
DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

DPS "on the air": 512-424-7777                       askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Ranger Sgt. Ronald Duff, Co. A Livingston, fractured neck after a crash.

Tr. Gary A. Yates, HP Texas City, suffered severe neck sprain after a crash.

Good news! Tr. Paul Sigman, HP Texarkana, has returned to light duty.

Lt. Donald G. Fleming, Narcotics Paris, was off duty following a crash but has returned to light duty.

On the mend...

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DPS Credit Union: Join

DPS employees and their families are eligible for membership at Texas DPS Credit Union. Credit Union membership is a great financial benefit to members who enjoy lower loan rates, higher savings rates, and unbeatable personal service.

Now, Texas DPS Credit Union can grant membership to your friends and other public safety employees who live within 10 miles of our main Austin location, 621 W. St. John’s Ave. Call 512-452-5211 or 1-800-252-9100 for more information on joining today!

Sign up for retiree e-mail list

If you’re a retiree and you want to keep up with special events around the agency, retiree gatherings in your area or death notifications, please send your name and e-mail address to pio@txdps.state.tx.us and we’ll add you to the retiree e-mail list.

Media notes

As of April 21, the DPS Public Information Office stopped issuing media credentials. However, press cards issued by DPS will remain valid until their expiration date, which is two years from the date of issuance.

Chapter 5.72.05 of the DPS General Manual states that it is officer discretion in deciding what constitutes proper identification.

The Public Information Office recommends a valid driver license and some sort of supporting identification issued by the reporter’s news outlet, which should suffice in most instances.

TexasOnline surpasses $1 billion

TexasOnline, an electronic framework that allows Texas residents easy access to local and state agencies, has recently passed the $1 billion mark in revenue processing since its creation in September of 2000.

Among the more than one million transactions that are processed each month are driver license renewals, motor vehicle registrations, payment of parking tickets, business sales tax filings and real-time filing of court documents.

Dive Team members needed

The Dive Recovery Team is taking applications for divers. The applicant must be a commissioned officer with the Department and have a basic diving certificate. Applicants must contact Maj. David Baker at 512-424-2115, and they must send their applications through their chain of command to the THP Chief’s office.

Speir Scholarship deadline

Wilson E. Speir Scholarship applications will be accepted through August 15. Students must be classified as full-time criminal justice majors and enrolled in Texas universities.

Two scholarships will be awarded for $500 per semester for up to two semesters. Preference will be given to qualified students whose parents are involved in law enforcement.

Applicants should submit resumes, transcripts of completed college work and photographs to: Director’s Office, c/o DPS, P.O. Box 4087, Austin TX 78773-0110.

Driver Records available online

Texans can now order copies of their driver records from the DPS website (www.txdps.state.tx.us) or from www.TexasOnline.com, the official website for the state of Texas. This new service allows eligible driver license and commercial driver license holders to order a driver record from home or work using a valid credit or debit card seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Individuals can request a driver record on a non-commercial or a commercial driver license. The printed driver record will be mailed within five business days after successful completion of the online transaction. Fees for these services can be paid using any major credit card.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us
**Mile Markers**

**Promotions**

**Criminal Law Enforcement**

**John Wise**, Lt., MVT McAllen to Capt., MVT Corpus Christi;

**Stacy Hohenburger**, Lt., MVT Arlington to Capt., MVT Garland;

**Scott Gavin Avant**, Sgt., MVT Laredo to Lt., MVT Laredo; **Steven Duane McAdams**, Sgt., MVT Houston to Lt., MVT Conroe;


**Driver License**


**Texas Highway Patrol**


**James Patrick Lopez**, Cpl. III, DPR online: [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us)

**HP Austin to Sgt., HP Eagle Pass; Nathan Garcia**, Tr. II, HP Austin to Sgt., HP Garland; **Steven Edward Davis**, Tr. V, CVE Floresville to Sgt., CVE Eagle Pass; **Michael Warren Hulburt, Jr.**, Tr. II, CVE El Paso to Sgt., CVE El Paso;


**Administration**


**Retirements**


**Shirley Ann Hollimon**, Tech., DL Kerrville, 20 yrs., 1 mo., 1 day; **Royce Vick Newton**, Oper. IV, Comm. Ozona, 16 yrs., 11 mos., 22 days; **Donald Chris Mashburn**, Capt., HP Waco, 16 yrs., 4 mos., 12 days;

**Linda Kay Shepherd**, Oper. II, VIR Austin, 16 yrs., 6 mos., 29 days; **Donald James Wenger**, Lead Oper., IMS Austin, 11 yrs., 6 mos., 22 days.

**Deaths**


**DLD fraud unit, continued from page 1**

cious activity and take the appropriate steps to report any suspicions.”

The unit has received an overwhelmingly positive response from all areas of the agency and has already contributed by assisting in several fraud cases outside of DLD.

The Fraud Unit recognizes that its success relies on the cooperative efforts of everyone involved in the investigation of internal or external fraud at DPS.

Incidents of internal or external fraud should be reported to the Driver License Fraud Unit at 512-424-5785 or 512-424-5365.

askthecolonel@txdps.state.tx.us
When disasters strike Texas, the Emergency Management Service plays an important role in response and recovery efforts. From coordinating the delivery of potable water to helping communities recover from a disaster, the Division is a firm believer in the philosophy of Texans helping Texans.

The timing of disasters is uncertain, and the Service can’t afford to keep a cadre of trained disaster specialists onboard while disasters are not occurring. This is why, for more than 20 years, the Service has relied heavily on disaster reservists to augment full-time staff in times of need.

Reservists’ duties range from sharing disaster assistance information with victims to assisting in the development of infrastructure grants for communities hit by disasters.

“It is pretty amazing the talents that we find in our reservists,” said Jack Colley, state coordinator. “Anyone who has the desire to help people in times of need and who has the flexibility to be away from home or business for periods ranging from two weeks to four months, is the kind of person the Division is seeking.”

State reservists say the work can involve many hours, but the rewards gained from helping victims outweigh everything.

Daily salaries for reservists can range anywhere from $115 to $140 per day. In addition, reservists who travel may be eligible to receive reimbursements for lodging, meals and mileage.

Before being accepted, work references will be checked and a background investigation performed. Reservists will receive both online training and on-the-job training for their disaster positions.

Reservists can be activated anytime Texas is hit by a disaster. Specific reservists will be notified by telephone with information relating to the incident.

Auto thieves don’t take a summer vacation, making the summer months the peak season for vehicle theft in Texas.

To help fight auto theft and increase awareness, DPS has compiled a list of the most stolen vehicles over the last year. (May 2003-April 2004)

1. General Motors pickups (9,155)
2. Ford pickups (4,802)
3. Honda Accord (2,929)
4. Dodge pickups (2,714)
5. GM Suburban (1,925)
6. Honda Civic (1,870)
7. Toyota Camry (1,539)
8. Ford Taurus (1,170)
9. Ford Mustang (1,073)

“Car and truck models five years and older account for about 70 percent of all auto theft,” said David Griffith, commander DPS Motor Vehicle Theft Service. “We saw some promising numbers for auto theft in 2003, but summertime is not the time to let our guard down.”

However, there were still 98,174 vehicles stolen in Texas in 2003, accounting for $782 million in losses.

Griffith recommends several precautions to protect your vehicle:

· Lock all doors; roll up windows, and do not leave the keys in the vehicle. Many stolen vehicles had unlocked doors or the keys left inside them.

· Park in populated, well-traveled and well-lighted areas. About half of all auto thefts take place at night.

· Use an anti-theft device to make the vehicle more difficult to steal, especially if you have a vehicle that is on the most stolen list.

· Consider using a tracking system to help recover the vehicle if it is stolen. (Some insurance companies discount rates for reliable systems.)

· Don’t encourage vehicle burglary by leaving expensive items in plain view inside the vehicle.

· Carry your license number and vehicle identification number to expedite the vehicle’s entry into the stolen vehicle data system when a police report is made.

People interested in applying can download an application from www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem and mail it to the address on the application.

For additional information, please contact Jackquenett Goetz of the Division’s Recovery Section at 512-424-2431 or e-mail at jackquenett.goetz@txdps.state.tx.us.