



DGS

# In The WORKS

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NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES - WORKING WITH YOU, WORKING FOR YOU



JAN/FEB, 1999

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## Alarmed and Dangerous



Tampering with fire safety and public address systems on the Capitol complex is not just alarming, it's dangerous. And it is a violation for which you, and your department director, could be liable.

While we would like to think that no one would intentionally put others at risk, that is what happens if you disconnect public address speakers or turn down the volume and forget to turn it back up.

Capitol Police, Emergency Management Division, and General Services staff recently met to discuss how to best respond to bomb threats on the Capitol complex. Unfortunately part of the discussion centered on the fact that people have disconnected some public address speakers and reduced the volume of other speakers to the point of rendering them ineffective.

Fundamental to everyone's safety is ensuring there are effective warning systems in place, and that they work. The systems are in place and being improved with a new installation underway in the Lucas Building and an extension of the public address system to additional areas, such as the tunnel, is planned. Even so, everyone's help is needed to make sure these systems work the way they should.

### Test the System

1. **Public address announcements will be made for many emergencies.** Notice of building evacuation for reasons other than fire, such as a bomb threat, will be made over the public address system. The announcements will be made by the Emergency Management Division in cooperation with Capitol Police.
2. **Announcements will be complex-wide.** In addition to notifying the affected buildings, others will know to stay away from those buildings.
3. **Keep speakers connected.** Do not turn down the volume or disconnect public address speakers.
4. **Report problems.** If you have difficulty hearing an announcement, report the difficulty and your location to the DGS Customer Service Center at 242-5120.

Help test the system. Regular testing of the public address system will begin during the winter months. Report any problems you identify during testing.

### Tunnel Closed For Repairs

Part of the Capitol Complex tunnel is closed and could remain closed for several weeks. Structural engineers are assessing a portion of the tunnel between the Grimes and Work Force Development Buildings to determine what repairs are needed. It was damaged by a water main break. The tunnel will not reopen until the safety of those who use it is assured.

## New Discoveries

From horse hair in walls to telephone batteries, many discoveries have been made in the Capitol during restoration. Workers recently discovered that more intricate stenciling had been painted-over than originally thought.

DGS restoration painters also discovered some of the colors and patterns in the Capitol were not authentic. The additional areas, located in the Supreme Court and the offices of the Auditor and Secretary of State, have been added to our "To Do" list.

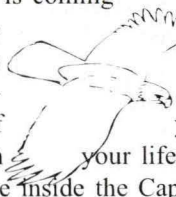
Restoring decorative painting is a painstaking process to be avoided by all but the most patient. The process begins with research. Documents and photographs are reviewed for evidence of original designs and colors. When possible, the actual original designs are uncovered on the walls and ceilings by using paint scrapers, razor blades, and chemical paint removers. After the designs are found, original colors are documented and measurements taken.

Tracings are made so stencils can be cut for each design, with some designs requiring as many as five separate stencils. Paint colors are hand-mixed to achieve the most accurate color possible given paints currently available. Background colors are painted with rollers and brushes and the designs are then applied using original artistic techniques.

Most of the work is completed by DGS restoration painters Dick Labertew and Mark Lundberg. They invite you to stop in, look up (they usually work on scaffolding), and say hi.

## Soaring Upward

Scaffolding is coming down and the sky is opening up. At least that is how you will see the restored central dome. If you want blue skies in your life, visit the central dome inside the Capitol. In addition to the ceiling, columns and lights were restored and the overall effect is breathtaking. The GAR flag, which you are used to seeing, will not be re-hung until repairs are made.



## Not So Trivial Facts

**Q** For many weeks you walked around scaffolding inside the Capitol. You may not have realized that constructing scaffolding is a complicated engineering feat that takes into consideration the work to be done, areas to be reached, what must be held, and the safety of workers. Do you know how much weight the scaffolding in the central dome supported?

**A** The equivalent of 5 Volkswagens.

**Q** Workers spend much time in the sub-basement installing new heating, cooling, ventilation, and electrical systems – and walking around footings. Do you know how big the concrete footings are below the Capitol?

**A** The equivalent of 2 cars (Cadillacs, not Volkswagens!) sitting side by side. You are on solid ground inside the Capitol!

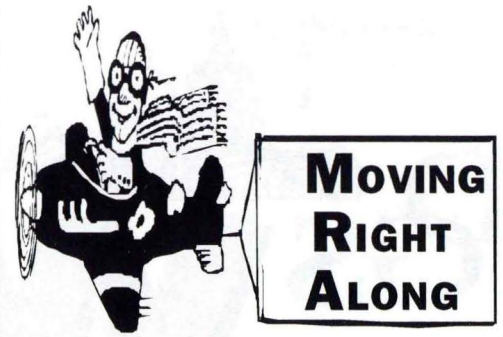
**Q** Why is scaffolding coming down when there is more work inside the dome. Why not do everything at once?

**A** The scaffolding that is in place will not work for the next phase. That would be like expecting a bridge built for cars to work for trains. New scaffolding appropriate to the job must be constructed so there is no reason to "do it all at once". Removing the scaffolding now will help congestion in the Capitol basement during the legislative session.



Everyone in the Capitol who had to move into temporary quarters during the last few months are home again. This includes Senate and House Leadership and their staff, House and Senate caucus staff, the Secretary of State's Office and the Auditor's Office. Thank you for your cooperation and support. We hope you find the improvements worth the inconvenience you experienced.

"There's no place like home."



**Department of Corrections is settling in at 420 Keo Way** after leaving the Capitol Annex.. Iowa Prison Industries and Parole Board personnel will soon follow. The Capitol Annex is beyond repair and will be razed.

*Correction: Telephone numbers for Department of Correction personnel have changed to 242- numbers. The old numbers will roll over for a period of time.*

**Department of Human Services XPERT and Testing and Training Projects** which support other DHS service programs are now at 215 Keo Way.

**Board of Regents and Crime Victims Assistance Program in the Attorney General Office** are planning moves out of the Old Historical Building no later than February. Details are not currently available. The State Library will remain in the building at least through the legislative session.

**State Boards in Executive Hills** – Dental, Nursing, Pharmacy and Medical – are beginning to plan their moves. The long-term plan is to raze Executive Hills, the two "apartment-looking" buildings southwest of the Hoover Building and south of Court Avenue.

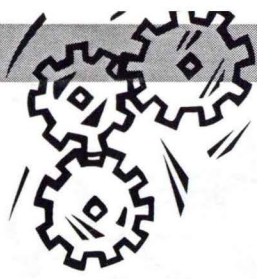
**Legislative Service Bureau, Iowa and Administrative Code Divisions**, are now on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Lucas Building, to allow construction to begin on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.

## We're Tankful

Like hundreds of affected gas stations across the state, new environmental rules for underground tanks led to recent action on the Capitol complex. We are currently in compliance for storage of thousands of gallons of fuel needed to provide standby fuel for heating, power generators and run the state fleet.

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# News Around The Complex

## New Options

If your car has a red, brown, blue, gold or yellow Capitol complex parking sticker, you may now park in any of five lots. The change addresses long-standing problems resulting from the number of employees exceeding the number of spaces in assigned lots. In the past, if your lot was full you had no options. At the same time, spaces in other lots could sit empty. To maximize use of employee lots and provide increased flexibility, employees assigned to one of the following lots now have access to any of these lots.

- Red Lot, located east of the Hoover Building (Lot 1)
- Brown Lot, located west of the Hoover Building (Lot 2)
- Blue Lot, located south of the Hoover Building across Court Avenue (Lot 3)
- Gold Lot, located west of the Capitol across Finkbine Drive (Lot 8)
- Yellow Lot, located east and south of the Capitol Annex (Lot 12)

## More On-Street Parking

On-street parking spaces will be added during the legislative session if approved by the city of Des Moines. Discussions with the city, who have been amenable to the idea, started in 1998.

## Monitoring Wallace

Equipment has been installed in the Wallace Building Parking Ramp, currently under a vehicle weight restriction due to deterioration. The additional data collected from the monitoring equipment will help in planning appropriate repairs.

## “My car won’t start and my toes are cold!”

If you have car problems in the Capitol Complex parking lots and don’t know what to do, call Capitol Police at 281-5608 or, if during regular business hours, the DGS Customer Service Center at 242-5120. They will help you get the assistance you need.

## “Good grief. The keys are in the ignition.”

Did you lock your keys in a state vehicle during work hours (and aren’t too embarrassed to admit it?) Call the State Fleet at 281-5123. Take advantage of the State Fleet’s backup lock system and avoid a locksmith charge. But be careful with your keys. This service is not available after hours.

## Help After Dark

If you have to walk to remote areas of the Complex at night and your co-workers are all at home watching Seinfeld reruns, you may call Capitol Police 281-5608 for an escort.

## Park It -- Ticket Free!

If you park a state vehicle overnight on the Capitol complex, park in the overnight lot (Lot 16, the gravel lot directly north of the Grimes Building) and avoid a ticket. The lot was redesigned as a restricted access lot with additional lighting added for safety.

An overnight parking lot has several advantages. Capitol Police can more effectively protect cars left over night. Snow removal, which begins in the wee hours of the morning after a snow fall, is easier and faster without the need to maneuver around parked cars. And when you get to work in the morning, spaces in employee lots will not be filled by state vehicles waiting patiently for their agency to use them.

You may park your personal car in Lot 16 while driving a state car assigned to your agency by transferring to your own car a Lot 16 display tag provided by DGS. If you need to keep a car from the state fleet pool overnight on complex, you will receive a tag to display when you check out the car.

Employees who have disabilities and need to park a state vehicle overnight on the complex should call the DGS Customer Service Center at 242-5120 for assistance.

## Better Capitol Access

People with disabilities coming to the Capitol will find it easier to get there. An area in the parking lot southeast of the Capitol, (Lot 14) was redesigned as parking for people with disabilities. This change was made to address the difficulties people with disabilities have had gaining access to the Capitol building.

## Some Relief

Additional demands on employee and visitor parking from construction workers on contract to the Department of General Services has been addressed. A temporary lot, to be used only by state construction contractors, was established west of the gravel lot behind Executive Hills. The increased demand resulted from the significant increase in Capitol complex improvement projects underway.

We are now asking our contractors to park in their own lot to ease demand on visitor and employee lots. Parking by others in the area designated for contractors is prohibited.

## Out With the Old, In With the New



Capitol Complex employees and visitors can look forward to these improvements in 1999. Some are already in place, some will be completed later this year.

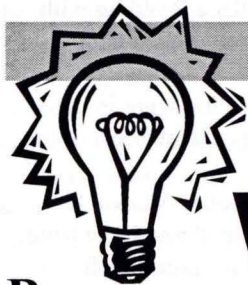
- A new break area in the Grimes Building (in the basement south of the DGS Printing and Imaging Division.)
- Sprucing up space for the DNR in the west wing of the 5<sup>th</sup> floor Wallace Building with painting, new carpets, pretty much new everything.
- Remodeling for an education wing in the New Historical Building (the area east of the information desk.)
- Rearranging DGS on Hoover A Level for better access for customers through the front door and internal moves for greater efficiency in functional areas.
- Restoration of the Allison and Soldiers and Sailors Monuments and the two cannons (one has been “missing in action”) west of the Capitol.
- Finish removing stains from the outside of the Hoover Building.

**L**ike all divisions and offices of state government, the Department of General Services is committed to cost control and protecting our environment. We ask that you join in our efforts by routing or posting this newsletter for other readers. If additional copies are needed, please feel free to duplicate.

If you have a topic or question you would like to see addressed, please contact: Editor, In The Works, phone (515)242-6118, fax (515)242-5974 or e-mail [jdettma@max.state.ia.us](mailto:jdettma@max.state.ia.us).



Citizen's Aide/Ombudsman  
*William Angrick, Ombudsman*  
 Micrographics Bldg.  
 LOCAL



**OPERATION BOLD MOVE**

**We Don't Mean To Be Stuffy**

Both air handlers in the Lucas Building will be replaced this winter. An air handler is part of the building's ventilation system. It is similar in function to the fan on your home furnace or air conditioner, *if* you multiply its size by about 8000.

The air handlers are most critical to meet cooling needs, and thus the necessary replacements were planned during January – March, 1999. While the heating in the Lucas Building will not change during this period of time, you may feel warmer because only one air handler will be in service at a time, reducing circulation. All floors will be affected.

**Public Health Getting a Close Up View of Renovations**

The Department of Public Health has moved into newly redecorated quarters on the sixth floor of the Lucas Building. Visit them to get an idea of how the improvements will look after the construction dust finally settles when Operation Bold Move is complete.

No additional moves are planned in the next few months. Construction continues on the fifth floor as asbestos removal begins on the fourth floor.

**Finally, Let's Eat!**

After a series of frustrating delays, the new and improved Lucas Cafeteria will reopen for hungry employees and visitors. Difficulty getting needed supplies and workers led to unanticipated delays. Those problems have been resolved. Construction will be completed in early January and the cafeteria management are planning to reopen by mid-January.

**Read a copy of "In The Works" on our Web Site at [www.max.state.ia.us/government/dgs/index.html](http://www.max.state.ia.us/government/dgs/index.html). If you would like to be on our mailing list, send the title of your position, department, and address to Julie Hedlund, DGS on the Hub, or [jhedlun@max.state.ia.us](mailto:jhedlun@max.state.ia.us), or call 515-281-3196.**