

econnections



May 2007

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Wednesday, May 9

Lamson Area Team Meeting
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Clinton Maintenance Building

Thursday, May 10

Management Team
9 a.m. - 11 a.m., Room 136

Thursday, May 17

Job Status, District 1, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 1, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 2, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Job Status, Group 3, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
Job Status, Group 4, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Friday, May 18

Skinner Area Team Meeting
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Lee's Summit Maintenance Facility

Wednesday, May 23

Munck Area Team Meeting
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in Nashua

Thursday, June 7

Resident Engineers
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Room 255
Maintenance Superintendents
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Room 136

Events

Tuesday, May 8

Truman Holiday
State Offices Closed

Friday, May 11

State Employee Recognition Day

Sunday, May 13

Mother's Day

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day
State Offices Closed

Thursday, May 31

Public Hearing Highway 13 Gap Project
5 - 7 p.m., Four Life Center
Lexington, MO

D4 Employees' Day in the Spotlight

2007 Employee Appreciation

by Kerri Lewis

D4 took time out to salute its employees on Thursday, May 03, at the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon. Employees district wide enjoyed lunch and entertainment as they basked in the spotlight to celebrate another year of hard work and dedication to MoDOT. From completing SRI a year in advance, reducing the number of lost work time injuries to two for 2006, to the work involved in a successful yet busy snow removal season, D4 had much to celebrate.



Top: Joe Jarboe keeps the fire burning, safely of course.



Left: Laughter rings out as employees enjoy a comedy show by Comedy City.



Below: Employees add the finishing touch to a tasty lunch.

Management delivers the delightful dish.

News from Across the District

Condolences : Our thoughts and prayers go to David Deed, Senior Maintenance Worker at Clinton, and his family on the passing of his mother-in-law, Betty Coke, in early March.

Congratulations to Chris West, Senior Highway Designer, and Amanda McGuire on their recent wedding on March 31st.

Congratulations to Patty McDonald, senior maintenance worker in Independence, on the birth of her daughter, Hanna Bell McDonald.

Congratulations to Allan Zafft, Transportation Planning, and his wife Robin on the adoption of 8 month old Miguel Angel Rameray Zafft, born on August 22, 2006. Allan and Robin will be traveling to Bogota, Colombia, later this month to finalize the adoption and then return home with their son.

Awards Update: And the winner is...

John Ortner and Tim Holman received the Above and Beyond award in April for resolving a right of way issue pertaining to improvements on the eastbound/northbound I-435 ramp to northbound Route 71.

Todd Gibson received the Above and Beyond award in April for quickly responding to help when the D1 dump truck lost its drive shaft. The result was uninterrupted traffic flow and a safe transportation system.

Three project offices from D4 received the Performance Plus Incentive. They received this award by reaching the project office performance target, which requires an achievement of a final construction cost of one percent or less above the contract award amount. This incentive rewards each employee in the office \$250. Congratulations to the East Truman Road Project Office, Riverside Project Office, and the Nashua Project Office.

Mailbag

After suffering from a stroke, I wanted to thank everyone for all their support and help during my recovery. I can't wait to get back to work.

Thank you,
J. R. (James Reagan and family)

Dear MoDOT and the Kearney Maintenance Building,
Thank you so much for patching the holes on and around the bridge at Route 291 and I-435, including my exit #45. It's so much better!

Delana Moore
Liberty



The Solutions at Work award was presented to (from left to right) JP Sanders, Eric Thompson, Shari Severeid, Richard Orr and Tim Holman (not pictured) for finding a cost-effective approach to acquiring right of way, saving MoDOT more than \$800,000.

Route 291/I-470 road work continues. The exit ramp from northbound Route 291 to 39th Street will be closed for approximately 45 days. Northbound traffic will be reduced to one lane and traffic will be shifted to the southbound lanes at 39th Street. Southbound traffic will also be reduced to one lane allowing for the traffic shift. The westbound I-70 to northbound Route 291 ramp will be closed during this time. This portion of the project is scheduled to be completed by late June 2007. The right lane of northbound I-470 will be closed to just south of Bowlin Road to north of Route 40 for bridge rehabilitation until early June.

MoDOT was recognized recently at the National Association of Government Communicators Awards, receiving **First Place** - Missouri Advanced Planning Online Funding Allocation Challenge; **First Place** - Booster Seat Radio Public Service Announcement; **Second Place** - Safe and Sound Bridge Improvement Program Media Event; **Award of Excellence** - Ken Hoierman TV PSA; and **Award of Excellence** - 2006 State of Transportation Address

The NAGC is a national organization made up of federal, state and local government communications professionals. The national recognition MoDOT received through this group is a credit to the work of district and central office staff in all parts of the department.

Another Successful Bring Your Child to Work Day

by Kerri Lewis

April 26 was a busy day at the District 4 office. More than 150 curious visitors could be spotted throughout the district learning about the different jobs at MoDOT during the annual Bring Your Child to Work Day.

Activities included a visit from the Lee's Summit D.A.R.E. police unit, the Jackson County Jr. Deputy and Canine Unit, a few big trucks including a striper, an emergency assistance unit and a Lee's Summit fire truck.

MoDOT's Department of Natural Resources neighbors allowed the children to visit their lab and their Hazmat First Response Vehicle. TRAC provided a bridge model and coordinated a bridge-building contest. And many children enjoyed the annual scavenger hunt that took them to departmental displays.

Department representatives sat down with the children to explain the details of their specific job and area. The Sign Shop, with the help of Nancy Lancaster, provided honorary name badges for all in attendance.

Chris Redline, Walt Wiercinski, Karl Krauss, Tom Evans, Diana Johnson, Darrell Daugherty and Amy Gagne provided

guided tours and helped with the children.

Coordinator Melbra Taylor offered her special thanks to all who participated and donated goodies for the kids, and to the following volunteer staff: Melanie Lanigan, Dawn Phillips, Nancy Lancaster, Bev Chrisco, Amy Gagne, LaVonda Hughlon, Tammy Wimmer, Tori Dailey, Kevin Hardee and Jeena John.



Several kids were able to get up close and personal with the Lee's Summit police car and hear about the importance of DARE.



D4's legal counsel explained their job duties and the importance of their presence at MoDOT.



Bruce Harvel, Construction and Maintenance, with son Bryce age 8, count the beans at the Business and Benefits display.



Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Assistant Construction Technician
Michael Atteberry

Promoted

Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Alfred Battle

Senior Construction Technician
Rodney Layman

Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Darin McGinnis

Financial Services Technician
Melanie Noel

Maintenance Crew Leader
Jerrett Pence

Senior Maintenance Worker
Ricky White

Retirement

Senior Maintenance Worker
Randy Coffey

Intermediate Maintenance Worker
Dennis Cummings

Construction Inspector
David McKenzie

econnections sources

Construction Bev Chrisco, 6341

Design Flo Noear, 0455

Regional Counsel LeAnn Francis, 6382

Administration Judy Magruder, 6309

General Services Toni Terry, 0056

Human Resources Belinda Fite, 6321

Right of Way Melbra Taylor, 6351

Traffic Dawn Phillips, 0401

Editor Kerri Lewis, 6328

I-Build Event a Success

The annual I-Build Event (formally known as Crayons to CAD) was another hit for 2007. More than 1900 middle school and high school students visited the regional construction and building industry Construction Career Day. The one-day event introduced the students to the variety of careers available in the construction industry. Several participated in the hands-on demonstrations and visited many booths to explore the career opportunities.

D4 participated, allowing the students to get a feel for the heavy equipment used, and Scout shared its elaborate system and introduced the Motorist Assist Vehicle.



Gerry Moling received his "gold" plated work boots to never forget his friends at MoDOT. Gary retired from the Liberty Maintenance Building in April.



DBE Supportive Service Business Assistance Center Now Open

by Kerri Lewis

MoDOT's local efforts to encourage disadvantaged business enterprises took a step forward in April when a Business Assistance Center opened at 18th & Vine streets in Kansas City.

MoDOT receives financial assistance from the U.S. DOT for its Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program. The program is designed to encourage disadvantaged businesses to participate in contracts financed in whole or in part with federal funds.

A DBE is defined as a small for-profit business that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged, or in which 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals; and whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

This statewide initiative seeks to increase DBE participation on MoDOT contracts and to provide resources for

developing small businesses around the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. Companies are being selected to participate in the pilot program, which began in April.

For more information, please visit www.modot.mo.gov/business/contractor_resources/External_Civil_Rights/DBE_program or call (573) 526-2978.



AJ Byrd spoke during the opening of the new DBE Office in downtown KC.

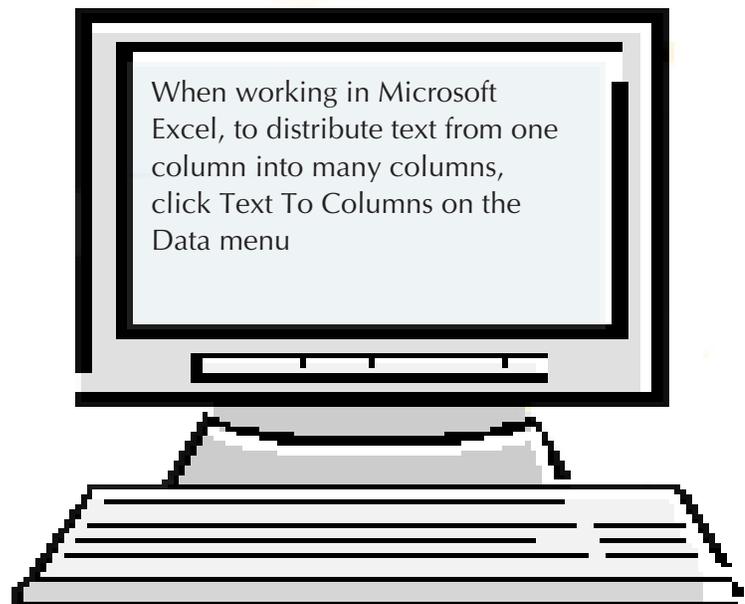
District 4 Blood Drive Scheduled

District 4 is sponsoring a blood drive Wednesday, May 16 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 136. All employees interested in donating please stop by. No appointment necessary and all are welcome.

Remember, every pint of blood donated can save up to three lives.



Information Systems Tip of the Day



Buckle Up In Your Truck

by Kerri Lewis

The message is simple: Buckle up in your Truck.

Studies have shown that pickup truck drivers and their passengers are among those least likely to wear a seat belt. The number is higher among men ages 18-34 – only 66 percent of Missouri drivers in that age group use seat belts.

During a May 2 press conference at the Ford Motor Company Plant in Claycomo, representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, MoDOT, KDOT, and local law enforcement answered questions and reported the grim facts:

- Pickups are more likely to roll over during an accident, creating a higher risk for occupants to be ejected from the vehicle.

- 85 percent of the people who died in pickup truck crashes last year were not buckled in.

- Individuals are 31 times more likely to be killed in a crash if they do not wear a seat belt.

During the Buckle Up in Your Truck Campaign now under way, Missouri will focus on increasing safety belt use among pickup truck occupants. Local law enforcement agencies across the state will be looking for people who are not buckled up. If you are pulled over for a traffic offense and are not wearing your seat belt, you will likely get a ticket. The enforcement effort precedes the annual Click it or Ticket safety belt campaign.



Romell Cooks, Regional Administrator for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, spoke of the importance for seat belt usage among pickup truck drivers and passengers.

“Our goal is to save lives.”

--Colonel William Seck, KS Highway Patrol

--Colonel James F. Keathley, MO State Highway Patrol



Sgt. Dan Greene with the Missouri State Highway Patrol explained that only 66 percent of those riding in pickup trucks use a safety belt.

