



*The ribbon marking the opening of the new East Topeka Interchange was cut by several dignitaries at the new toll plaza on August 1. Topeka as well as northeast Kansas will benefit from the new interchange that connects I-70, K-4, the Oakland Expressway, and the Kansas Turnpike.*

## New East Topeka Interchange now open

*Interchange brings together KDOT, KTA, City of Topeka, Shawnee County*

By Kim Stich

The new East Topeka Interchange project, after almost six years and more than \$90 million, opened to traffic August 1. KDOT, the KTA, the City of Topeka, and Shawnee County joined together to fund one of the single largest transportation investments in our state's history.

"This interchange is an excellent example of four organizations working together to provide a safer, more efficient transportation system for all motorists," said Secretary E. Dean Carlson. "Whether you live in Topeka or are traveling through the area, motorists for years to come will

---

***"Whether you live in Topeka or are traveling through the area, motorists for years to come will reap the benefits of this new interchange."***

**Secretary E. Dean Carlson**

---

reap the benefits of this new interchange."

"This project will be a living testament to multijurisdictional cooperation and achievement. The economic future of Topeka and northeast Kansas will be en-

hanced by this investment," said Michael L. Johnston, Kansas Turnpike Authority President/CEO.

The new interchange will:

- ◆ Connect the Oakland Expressway to I-70 and the Kansas Turnpike;
- ◆ Improve the I-70 alignment in east Topeka;
- ◆ Include a folded diamond interchange at Rice Road/I-70 with roundabouts at the ramp terminals as well as a folded

---

Continued on page 6

### INSIDE ...

- ◆ EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR EXAMPLE OF EXCELLENCE
- ◆ WILLETTS MAKES IT TO THE "HOT SEAT"

- ◆ VISIT KDOT'S BOOTH AT THE KANSAS STATE FAIR
- ◆ TEACHING GRANDMA ABOUT SPEED LIMITS
- ◆ KDOT HITS THE ROAD TO HEAR PUBLIC CONCERNS



From  
Where  
I Sit

by E. Dean Carlson

## Put the Brakes on Fatalities

I'd like you to imagine the unthinkable for a moment. Imagine if a fully loaded 737 jetliner crashed every day of the year killing everybody aboard. A grisly scenario, I know, but I'd like you to think about what the result would be. My guess is that we would all be demanding that something be done to improve the safety of air travel and that many of us would cease traveling by air until something was done.

Yes, yes, you're saying, but something like that would never happen. Yet, incredible as it may seem, something like that does happen every day. I'm talking about highway fatalities. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) figures, an average of 42,000 people a year died on our nation's highways between 1994 and 1999. This averages out to about 115 people a day - about the same number that would be killed in that hypothetical plane crash. But last time I looked, not many of us were refusing to drive on the highways, and few of us seem

to be clamoring that something be done.

Well, it's time to start clamoring and I'm pleased to say that KDOT is playing a lead role in doing just that. Larry Emig, of the Bureau of Local Projects, has been working in his role with the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) to create a "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day." The goal is to establish a day similar in concept to the Great American Smoke Out or Earth Day - a day where people are hit with messages that make them think about an issue.

The idea is simple enough: focus attention on a problem, make people think about it, and give them information they can use to help solve it. The efforts of the NSPE have paid off and the first "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" will take place this October 10. The messages will be aimed at three key areas of highway safety: the driver, the vehicle, and the roadway. Events will take place all across the country and it's hoped this will become an annual event.

More than 40 organizations, both public and private, have now joined in sponsoring this event. To name just a few, they include Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Automobile Association (AAA) and The Road Information Project (TRIP).

You'll be hearing more about this event in the days ahead, but you don't have to wait until then to start making a difference. You know the right things to do when you're driving, and our "Kansas Driving: Safe. Not Sorry" is helping make sure everyone knows. So drive safely, and help put the brakes on fatalities every day you're on the road.



**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Office of Transportation Information**  
 Docking State Office Building, 754-S  
 915 Harrison, Topeka, Ks 66612-1568



**Governor:** Bill Graves  
**Secretary of Transportation:** E. Dean Carlson  
**Director of Public Affairs:** Nancy Bogina  
**Chief of Transportation Information:** Marty Matthews  
**Editors:** Stan Whitley and Kim Stich

**Phone/TTY: (785) 296-3585 FAX: (785) 296-0287**

**NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the KDOT Office of Transportation Information, Docking State Office Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan., 66612-1568, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).**

## Calendar of Events

**September 3** - State employees off for Labor Day holiday.

**September 7-16** - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. - KDOT booth at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. Booth located in the Eisenhower Building.

**September 11** - 11 a.m., KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Seventh Floor Conference Room, Docking State Office Building.

**September 12** - 2 p.m. - Construction Bid Letting, Wichita Airport Hilton.

**September 13-14** - Highway Advisory Commission meeting - District Four field trip.

**October 2-3** - KDOT Operations meeting at the Holiday Inn in Great Bend

## Team's effort to provide safety an Example of Excellence

The origin-destination study that took place around Lawrence in June was necessary to determine future transportation needs in the area. Providing traffic control for those doing the study was an important job. This team effort received the Example of Excellence award for the second quarter of 2001.

"On very short notice, four Subareas and the Area Two Maintenance crew were given the assignment to provide traffic control for the origin-destination survey," said Bob Bowden, Area Two Engineer. "This consisted of simultaneous lane drops in both directions, at three separate four-lane locations."

Maintaining safety while accomplishing the goal was a priority. Traffic control was also necessary from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day. "With tremendous cooperation between crew members, we were able to consolidate our resources and coordinate manpower to accomplish this assignment," Bowden said. Due to the short notice, work schedules had to be significantly altered. Many people made personal sacrifices to arrive in Lawrence before sunrise, or return home at late hours.

Employees also had to make last-



Crew members from four Subareas and the Area Two office are honored in the Employee Recognition program.

### KDOT Employee RECOGNITION PROGRAM

minute changes due to the weather. When a thunderstorm hit, Bowden said they had to quickly remove the traffic control and reset everything after the storm passed.

For their efforts, Secretary E. Dean

Carlson presented a plaque to the group and certificates to each person at a gathering on August 14 at the Area Office in Osage City.

In alphabetical order, those KDOT employees receiving certificates included Gary Burroughs, Clifford Butterfield, Richard Cunningham, Mike Daniel, Dick

Davis, Richard Deeds, Nathaniel Faith, Tom Ford, Rick Gardner, Brad Gavin, Travis Harrell, Ron Herrmann, Royall Hoffer, Don Jones, Kayne Kraus, Richard Kraus, Leland Kueser, Corey Lowe, J.B. Masters, Butch Moore, Gary Moulin, Jeff Romine, Ryan Salber, Randy Schimmel, Tommy Scott, Ron Smith, Greg Stout, Terry Thompson, John Watson, Richard Wieneman, James Williams, and Charles Zerbe.

This was the second group selected in the Example of Excellence program. The award is given quarterly with the third quarter nominations due to the Office of Transportation Information by September 30. -K.S.

### Electronic nomination forms now even more convenient

Division Directors, Bureau Chiefs, District Engineers, Area Engineers, and Subarea Supervisors are encouraged to nominate any group, team, or office that goes above the call of duty.

And now to make it even more convenient, nomination forms can be completed and submitted electronically on KDOT's Intranet. Just go to the Forms Warehouse, and search for Form DOT 1204, Example of Excellence/Employee Recognition Form. Hard copies of the form are also available by calling Transportation Information at (785) 296-3585.



Area Two Engineer Bob Bowden (right) chats with Secretary E. Dean Carlson after the ceremony.

# KDOT conducting statewide road rallies

KDOT wants to know what the public thinks about roadway features across the state. Answers to that question are being obtained through road rallies in each of KDOT's six districts.

In April, KDOT conducted the first of six road rallies across Kansas that target input from Kansas residents and Special Interest Groups/Stakeholders. The remaining five road rallies are being organized for late summer. Each road rally covers a 45 to 60-mile course selected by KDOT managers and comprises a variety of segmented highway types and classifications geographically distributed across the state.

"The road rallies are supplemental to the KDOT external survey completed in December 2000," said Ron McMurry, KDOT Strategic Planning Manager. "The rallies provide the public with the opportunity to tell us what it is they specifically like or dislike about our roadways."

The District One course covered observations on 14 different sections including 'A', 'B' and 'D' roadway classifications. The sections, varying in both design and condition, in-

cluded K-7, K-10, I-35, US-56 and I-435. Rallies were held at three different times during the day allowing for collection of a solid demographic sampling.

KDOT provided existing technical data for each segment of the highway including: the type of surface/number of lanes, IRI (international roughness index or similar rating), pavement condition rating, width of shoulders, width of lanes, date of last striping/paint type, bridge width, traffic counts, and/or other data that is available.

Participants were asked to provide their perceived level of satisfaction with specific highway features such as pavement condition, smoothness, lane width, sight distance, shoulder condition, horizontal alignment, center striping, roadside striping, traffic flow, ease of getting on/off the highway, signage, landscaping, and width of bridges for each individual segment of the road rally

*'The rallies provide the public with the opportunity to tell us what it is they specifically like or dislike about our roadways.'*

**Ron McMurry**

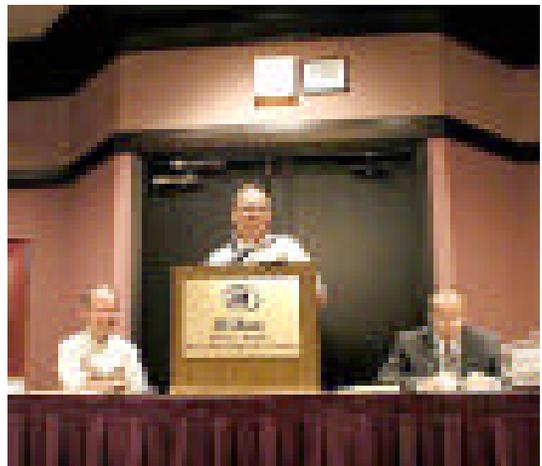
Continued on page 11

## AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction meeting



*AASHTO delegates and their spouses had the opportunity to socialize and enjoy an evening meal at the Boathouse in Wichita on the opening night of the meeting.*

*At right, a meal at the fairgrounds in Hutchinson was followed by a visit to the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center on Wednesday night.*



*Dean Testa, Chief of Construction and Maintenance, delivers welcoming comments at the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Construction meeting August 5-10 in Wichita.*



## Willetts gets one in a million chance to sit in the hot seat

Lyle Willetts, IT Consultant in Computer Services, has seen several movies starring Julia Roberts and thinks she's a good actress. Although he has not seen the movie "Stepmom," he will never forget that Roberts played a photographer in that film because that was the question where he decided to take his money and run while participating on the game show, "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?"

"If I had been calmer and taken more time with it, I might have figured it out," Willetts said. "When you're sitting in your living room, things make more sense."

Most people who have watched the show have dreamed of sitting in the hot seat opposite Regis Philbin, and on July 23, Willetts' dream came true.

He had tried calling the 800 number to become a contestant for more than a year. He had gotten close to being selected a couple times but had not made it through the final process. On the last night during the call-in period, June 28, he qualified. Two weeks later, on July 12, he got word that he had been selected as a contestant. "I called Sandy and she got all excited, and she told the boys and they got all excited," Willetts said.

Willetts and his wife left for New York July 22. That night there was a meeting at the hotel where they went over documents and received \$150 spending money and t-shirts. When they arrived at the studio the next day, Willetts was immediately put in lock down where they check for weapons and then they check to make sure no one has electronic devices or reading materials. "The want to be absolutely definitive that nothing could be rigged," Willetts said.

Next they go over information for the possible interview.



*Lyle Willetts made it to the hot seat on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" and walked away a winner. Find out how much he won August 28.*

They were intrigued by the fact that he speaks "computerese" and that he likes spoonerisms (switching the initial sounds of words), "but the thing that wowed them was that I had a CDL – they were amazed by that," he said.

Then it was off to the set where everyone practiced getting into the hot seat because it sits up so high and then they had five practice fastest finger questions. After lunch at the ABC cafeteria, contestants went to hair and make-up and headed back to the studio to tape

the show.

The third fastest finger question was a charm for Willetts. "I watched the screen and saw my name flash – I about dove

**Make sure and watch  
ABC on Tuesday, August  
28, at 7 p.m. to see Willetts  
in the hot seat.**

Continued on page 10



### Step Back in Time

*A Kansas Highway Commission booth at the Kansas State Free Fair provided the public safety-related information in September of 1956.*

## Facts/figures involving East Topeka Interchange

It is the largest project let to construction by KDOT or the KTA, and now the dream of a new East Topeka Interchange has become a reality.

- ◆ **5,660,000 pounds** of structural steel
- ◆ **10,801 feet** of prestressed beams
- ◆ **16 bridges** within the 39 lane miles of roadway built on the project
- ◆ **38,220** shear studs
- ◆ **23,966 square yards** of overlay
- ◆ **4,385,000 cubic yards** of excavation

You can see why this project took three construction seasons to build by looking at the amount of materials and size of the project below.

- ◆ **364,700 square yards** of concrete pavement
- ◆ **Six miles** of ramps
- ◆ **5,899 feet** of steel piling
- ◆ **3,684,000 pounds** of reinforcing steel



*Above, Governor Bill Graves pays the toll as he was the first person to go through the new toll facility after the ribbon cutting ceremony.*



*Michael L. Johnston, Kansas Turnpike Authority President/CEO, listens while Secretary E. Dean Carlson speaks at the East Topeka Interchange ceremony. In the background is a sign showing the four organizations that came together to make the new interchange possible.*

## East Topeka Interchange

Continued from page 1

diamond interchange at US-40/K-4;  
◆ Feature two new toll plaza facilities that have commuter parking areas and K-tag lanes.

“The project is the epitome of inter-governmental cooperation,” said Topeka Mayor Butch Felker. “It will be the catalyst for many economic development projects in Topeka.”

The project will have many advantages for people in Topeka and through-

out northeast Kansas with:

- ◆ Improved traffic flow in the area;
- ◆ Reduced travel time;
- ◆ Decreased congestion;
- ◆ Local residents having improved access to the major corridors;
- ◆ Improved access to east Topeka through the Rice Road interchange to Croco Road;
- ◆ Economic development possibilities.

“The citizens of Shawnee County are excited about the completion of the East Topeka Interchange,” said Shawnee County Commission Chairman Vic Miller. “This project represents the best in inter-governmental cooperation and opens

doors to development in a long neglected part of our community.”

While the project opened to traffic August 1, work on removing the existing KTA toll plaza and constructing the ramp and connections to the Rice Road/I-70 roundabouts will not be finished until late this fall. In addition, landscaping and seeding as well as work on other areas off the roadway will continue until late 2002.

The Hamm Companies of Perry is the prime contractor on the interchange project.

## New interchange has tremendous advantages

Determining future transportation needs can be difficult, especially when city, county, state and turnpike roadways are all located in a small area in east Topeka. By taking all four agencies' needs into consideration and combining them together into one big project, the new East Topeka Interchange will be a tremendous advantage for motorists in east Topeka.

Originally, the Oakland Expressway, that now stops at S.E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, was eventually to be extended south and west to connect to I-70 and that was it – no direct connection to go east or west on the Turnpike and no access to Rice Road.

The original concept also did not allow the Kansas Turnpike room to expand and include new technology to assist motorists. Access for city and county roads to I-70 and the Turnpike would have been considered separately at some point in the future.

KDOT and the KTA decided to join forces and requested the City of Topeka and Shawnee County to join them. "Each entity was pursuing separate plans on how to solve transportation problems in this area," said Steve King, KDOT Squad



*This new bridge takes traffic from the Oakland Expressway east to the Turnpike.*

Leader in charge of design on the East Topeka Interchange. "The two agencies got together and developed a plan that would serve each other well along with the local streets and county roads in that area."

City and county funds were predicated on a vote of taxpayers on August 6, 1996, to extend a quarter-cent sales tax. It passed by a large margin. "A lot of people wanted to see it done and they're getting a good bang for their buck," King said.

The total project cost was originally estimated at \$98.6 million, but now it is expected to cost about \$5 million less. The project funds are 50 percent from KDOT,

41 percent from the KTA, 4.5 percent from the City of Topeka and 4.5 percent from Shawnee County.

The East Topeka Interchange will feature several safety enhancements:

- ◆ Helping local and through traffic;
- ◆ Connecting the KTA with I-70 and the Oakland Expressway;
- ◆ Reducing congestion at the existing toll plaza by building an improved toll facility;
- ◆ Using roundabouts at the Rice Road/I-70 ramp terminals to handle the large volumes of traffic coming to and from I-70. **-K.S.**

## Work far from over on East Topeka Interchange

The new East Topeka Interchange is open to traffic, but the project is far from complete. This fall, a major landscaping project will begin along the new roadways that will take more than a year to complete.

This landscaping project is one of the largest planting projects ever undertaken. Since some areas are inaccessible to mow, there will be numerous naturalized areas to help reduce maintenance needs and add beauty to the area.

Native grasses such as Little Blue Stem, Big Blue Stem and Side Oats Gramma as well as wildflowers

including Grey Headed Coneflower, Pale Purple Coneflower and Purple Prairie Clover will be used throughout the project. Trees will be planted in several areas including along Rice Road and shrubs will be planted in the middle of the roundabouts.

The landscaping project will not affect traffic, but motorists are asked to use extra caution throughout the new interchange as highway workers and contractors will be working near the roadways. **-K.S.**

# Teaching Grandma?

By Ron Kaufman

Albert Einstein has been quoted as saying “You do not really understand something unless you can explain it to your grandmother.” Albert Einstein is your quintessential smart person. He understood the speed of light and he understood the limits of the universe. I wonder, however, whether he would have understood speed limits. Some things just seem beyond normal human reason.

Still, speed limits exist and most drivers (85 percent) seem to follow them reasonably well. Drivers probably can’t tell you why they follow the speed limits. Most would probably say it’s just the law. If only we could get 85 percent compliance with seat belt use. When I first came to KDOT almost three years ago, I struggled to understand speed limits. At first, the very idea of the driving public having some influence over such an important matter seemed like anarchy. I recalled my past visits to New York City. New York is a corner of the universe where “speed” and “limits” do not seem to coexist. Eventually, I came to better understand speed limits, but I still struggle with trying to explain them to grandma. Clearly, I’m no Einstein.

One of the most challenging parts of our jobs is to try to explain such heady things to the people we serve. Public involvement is one part information, one part education, and one part involvement. Effective involvement depends on accurate information about the work we do and a certain amount of education to help reasonable people understand it. If people can’t understand what we do and if we seem to have no interest in helping them understand, we can become the target of their frustration. At the same time, we are less likely to appreciate their efforts unless they seem to understand our efforts. As a public servant you might appreciate not being the target of ill feelings, even if there’s no place for public involvement in your work. So, being able to adequately explain our work in understandable terms is important for all concerned.

How do we explain our work so others can understand it? Simply stated, try teaching your grandmother. Testing an explanation on another significant person works just as

well. In a pinch, use your imagination and pretend that you are teaching your “inner public.” Humans are sublimely self-involved, so begin your explanation with your listener. People build knowledge and understanding on the foundation of things learned or experienced earlier in life. So, listen to their stories and ask questions to clarify what you hear. Only then will you know how to proceed. Draw from what you hear and break down your explanation into smaller ideas with similarities in everyday life. Once you have established some understanding with simple examples, you can start to build a more complex message. Always try to relate to your listener’s experiences and frequently check to see if they agree with or understand what you are saying. If

the examples you use do not seem to match your listener’s

experiences, you are likely to be misunderstood, so be prepared with several different examples. When possible, use non-technical pictures, drawings, or other visual tools. Always

remember to respect your listener’s age and experiences. Never talk to adults as if they were children! When you believe you have achieved your goals, check once again for understanding. If they “get it,” give yourself a pat on the back. If not, then repeat or stop, depending on your listener’s wishes. You might have to be satisfied with igniting the spark of understanding rather than the fireworks of complete success.

It can be a challenge to rethink the work with which you are familiar and break it down into chunks that can be understood by others. It is worth the effort, however. By doing so, you develop a new understanding of your work and a new view on how it is seen by others. Einstein was right in this respect. That is not too surprising. Yet, a puzzle remains. If it took his grandmother to help Einstein understand his work, which one was the genius? Suddenly, thanks to Einstein, I view my grandma in a whole new speed of light.

*There is a handy explanation of speed limits on the KDOT Internet site, under the heading of “Safety.”*





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Dear KDOT:**

I would like to thank your department for the help that one man offered to me on August 1. Kenneth McKenzie (District One Maintenance Superintendent) stopped on K-4 to make sure I was ok.

I'm 20 years old and was driving home from Topeka when my car died. At the time that my car died I had enough reception on my cell phone to call home and let my family know I was having problems, shortly after, my cell phone lost reception and I had no way of getting help. Mr. McKenzie offered assistance and calmed me down. He let me use his cell phone to call home and let them know I was ok, then he took me to the nearest gas station to wait for someone to get me.

About a half hour later, he came back to the gas station to make sure I was ok and that I had help on the way. He had given the highway patrol the information of where I was. Later, on his way back to Topeka, he stopped once again at my car and made sure we had a tow coming. This man was very generous. To your department and him, my family and I thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Roberts,  
St. Joseph, Mo.

**Deaths**

Condolences to the family and friends of former KDOT employee John Harrington, who passed away July 9 at Topeka.

Harrington, 88, retired from KDOT in 1978. He is survived by three daughters, a sister and six grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Midland Hospice House, 200 S.W. Frazier Circle, 66606 or the St. Francis Hospital Foundation, 1700 S.W. 6<sup>th</sup>, 66606.

**US-169 Ground-breaking ceremony**

*Governor Bill Graves and Secretary E. Dean Carlson were among the dignitaries present for the US-169 ground-breaking ceremony that took place August 1 in Paola. The project will involve the expansion of US-169 to a four-lane roadway in Miami County*

## United Way of Greater Topeka campaign kicks into full gear

Planning will soon be in full gear for the 2001 United Way of Greater Topeka fund-raising drive.

Beginning with a campaign kick-off held on Thursday, September 6, the United Way will start its Annual Day of Caring fund-raising celebration. This community-wide celebration will continue through Friday, September 7 and Drew Rowland, UWGT Communications Specialist, hopes the addition of an extra day for the campaign will promote increased awareness for the cause and will give participating businesses more time to schedule fund-raising activities.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to get hands-on experience helping others. Participants are able to see the impact that they're making through their donation, what resources are generated, and how they are used," Rowland said.

Dan Carter, Management Systems Analyst in Management and Budget, will serve as chairman for this year's KDOT campaign. The theme will be "A Key to Caring" and Carter hopes to generate enough participation during the drive to have donations exceed the \$28,328.83 that was raised last year.

Planning for this year's KDOT campaign is underway and events will soon be organized. Carter said the campaign will probably begin in mid-September and run through the end of the month. Information on the different events will be distributed as it becomes available.

"I feel that for this year's campaign to be truly successful, we need to surpass last year's contributions by at least \$1.00. We need everyone, in one way or another, to participate," Carter said. "Just one person can make a difference."

# Check out KDOT's booth at the Kansas State Fair

Looking for an entertaining and educational experience? The Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, September 7-16, is your ticket.

Whether it's viewing the 700-plus commercial exhibits, the thousands of competitive exhibits, enjoying fair rides, grandstand entertainment or food, there will be plenty of activity at the 89th annual fair.

KDOT's Office of Transportation Information, with assistance from District Five staff, will once again have a booth at the fair. The booth in the Eisenhower Building will be open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on opening day, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

"The fair offers an excellent opportunity to inform the public about KDOT's programs and projects," said Marty Matthews, KDOT Public Information Officer. "Our main emphasis will be promoting safety on Kansas roadways, answering questions and

listening to the public's concerns."

KDOT's booth is always a popular attraction with a wide variety of promotional items available including keys chains, the 2001-2002 official state transportation map,

---

***'The fair offers an excellent opportunity to inform the public about KDOT's programs and projects.'***

**Marty Matthews**

---

litter bags and book markers.

New promotional items will be orange plastic stadium cups, containing work zone safety tips on the outside, orange Give 'Em a Brake pencils and magnets. The magnets contain important numbers the public can use to obtain information using the road condition hot line, KDOT connection and the internet address for weather-related road

conditions.

Besides stressing the Give 'em a Brake program, KDOT's new "Safe. Not Sorry" safe driving and education and awareness program will be highlighted. Special glove box folders that can hold the state map, along with insurance and registration documents, will be available. The folders contain the "Safe. Not Sorry" logo and key emergency contact information. Litter bags, ice scrapers, and window cling stickers will also be available.

The Kansas State Safety Belt Education Office (KSBEEO) will be part of the KDOT booth once again. The office works to promote the need for safety belts and child seats at all times when traveling. Promotional items they will offer include pens, pencils, magnets, sunscreen crayons, and coloring books.

More information about the fair can be found at [www.kansasstatefair.com](http://www.kansasstatefair.com). S.W.

## Willetts

Continued from page 5

sideways out of my chair and shook Regis' hand," he said. "We talked about me working at KDOT and he asked if we have traffic jams in Kansas. "I said yes, but for the most part they only last a couple minutes."

Things went along pretty well, Willetts said, "then I got two questions in a row that were outside my strengths." He didn't know the name of the cricket in the book, "A Cricket in Times Square." He asked the audience, but the vote was close, so he used the 50-50 and got the answer right.

On the next question, Willetts phoned a friend, Lee Lassiter, but he also didn't know Julia Roberts' profession in "Stepmom." "I had seen other people lose, so I decided, that's it, I'm walking," he said.

The trip was a lot of fun, Willetts said. At first he dreaded going to New York, "but it was pretty exciting – a whole different culture and experience. I'd like to go back some day." - K.S.

Welcome  
new KDOT  
employees!

### Headquarters

**Brian Briggs**, Database Programmer Analyst II, Computer Services

**Alex Hoover**, Applications Programmer Analyst II, Computer Services

**George Laliberte**, Program Consultant II, Aviation

**Richard Peat**, Programmer and Analyst Manager, Computer Services  
**Kathleen Selvidge**, Legal Assistant, Chief Counsel

**Norman Stahl**, Human Resources Professional II, Personnel Services

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information for new employees to Translines.*

### District One

**Bobby Davis**, Engineering Technician Associate, Bonner Springs

**Gary Fangman**, Engineering Technician Associate, Seneca

**Mitchel Hoag**, Engineering Technician Associate, Emporia

**Alan Lierz**, Engineering Technician Associate, Seneca

**Larrie Raney**, Engineering Technician Associate, Emporia

### District Three

**Kristen Brands**, Program Consultant I, Norton

### District Four

**Stephen Gibson**, Engineering Technician Associate, Independence

**Ian Stringham**, Engineering Technician Associate, Garnett

### District Five

**Beth Helsel**, Office Assistant II, Hutchinson

## Attention Retirees

### The 2001 Operations Meeting

will take place October 2-3 in Great Bend at the Holiday Inn, 3017 W. 10th Street. If you are interested in attending this year or if you would like to be invited to future Operation Meetings, please contact Dennis Weinrich in Construction

and Maintenance at 785-296-3576.

## Road Rally

Continued from page 4

courses.

An analysis of the technical data for each section of highway and participant ratings from the road rallies will be conducted and the data merged into a single data base. The analysis will provide KDOT outputs that include:

- ◆ Identification of the importance of highway features by type of highway.
- ◆ Identification of expectations for the condition of highway features by type of highway.
- ◆ Identification of highways features that most strongly impact customer satisfaction with highways in the state.

A final report on the road rally results will be completed in September 2001.

ETC Institute (ETC), an Olathe based market research firm, is administering the road rallies.

Each road rally begins with a 20-minute presentation and brief overview of the course. Participants then travel the course in several passenger vans, traveling about 90 minutes. A facilitator is in each van to coordinate and assist during the road rally. After completing the course, a brief wrap-up session takes place to address concerns and gather completed surveys.

Additional information concerning the road rallies can be obtained by contacting the Office of Management and Budget at (785) 296-3597. - S.W.

## Take Your Kids to Work Day



*During KDOT's Take Your Kids to Work Day on July 20, Julie Lesslie, Project Control Engineer, works with her sons, Luke and Peter, while below, Shane Hastings, Sign Shop Printer, demonstrates silk screen printing for the purpose of making highway signs to a group of parents and kids. Children from eight to 14 had the chance to see their parents working and also learn about KDOT during tours at the Materials Research Center and the Sign Shop.*



## M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in August

### 10 YEARS

Nancy Bogina ..... Topeka  
 John Clark ..... Fort Scott  
 Glen Coker ..... Sharon Springs  
 Michael Hernandez Jr. .... Topeka  
 Susan Maxon ..... Topeka  
 David Nagy ..... Topeka  
 Kent Portenier ..... Phillipsburg  
 Terry West ..... El Dorado

### 30 YEARS

Ralph Gripka ..... Lawrence  
 Nels Just ..... Topeka  
 Robert Warhurst ..... Oakley

This information is compiled by each Office, Bureau, Division, and District.

## Promotions/Transfers

### Headquarters

**Mark Johnson**, Environmental Scientist II, Design

**Becky Klenklen**, Publications Writer I, Materials and Research

**Betty Oliver**, State Auditor I, Fiscal Services

### District One

**Jamie Gaddias**, Engineering Technician Associate, Topeka

**Drake Jennings**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Overland Park

**Chad Ridgway**, Engineering Technician Associate, Olathe

**Richard Wyatt**, Engineering Technician Associate, Merriam

### District Two

**Rex Flinn**, Highway Maintenance Supervisor, Mankato

**Eric Moore**, Equipment Operator III, Marion

**Carlton Shumaker**, Engineering Technician Senior, Junction City

### District Three

**Sidney Ochs**, Equipment Operator III, Hoxie

**Paul Stout**, Engineering Technician Senior, Oakley

**Marvin Withington**, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, Atwood

### District Five

**Annette Ratcliff**, Engineering Associate III, Wichita

**Brent Terstriep**, Engineering Associate III, Wichita

### District Six

**Denver Cox**, Right of Way Agent I, Garden City

**Christine Urban**, Human Resources Professional I, Garden City

*The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.*

## Training Opportunities

◆ **Employee Benefit Seminar**, September 5, 19, October 3, 17, 31 - no enrollment needed.

◆ **Transition to Leadership**, September 11-13, District Three and District Five; September 25-27, District Five; October 2-4, District Two.

◆ **New Employee Orientation**, September 27, and October 30, Topeka.

◆ **Leadership Basics**, September 18-20, Topeka.

◆ **You'll Catch On!** October 2-3 and October 16-18, TBA.

◆ **Basic Effective Supervisory Techniques**, October 16-19 and November 6-9, Topeka.

◆ **Leadership Forum**, November 19-20, Topeka.

All classes, except BEST, are available to non-supervisors with supervisory permission and where space is available. *A comprehensive training calendar is on the KDOT Intranet under Personnel, Training.*

KDOT  
**Office of Transportation Information**  
915 Harrison - Room 754  
Topeka, KS 66612-1568

PRE-SORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
TOPEKA, KS  
PERMIT No. 157