

KDOT Translines

Bureau of Transportation Information

September 2004

United Way strengthens communities

“Improved and stronger communities” - a vision many share - is the vision of the United Way of Greater Topeka. By supporting numerous programs in Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Osage, Pottawatomie, Shawnee, and Wabaunsee counties, United Way is able to realize that vision.

The United Way of Greater Topeka works year-round with state and local governments, schools, businesses, organized labor, health and social service agencies, volunteers, and donors

Continued on page 10

US-400 ribbon cutting



From left, Parsons Mayor Robert Bartelli, Kansas Turnpike Authority President Michael Johnston, Parsons Chamber of Commerce President Chris Lubbers, Secretary Deb Miller, Senator Dwayne Umbarger, and Representative Jeff Jack cut the ribbon at the US-400 bypass ceremony. See page 9 for more details.



Matt Bleier, Surveys, tries to hold on at third without stepping off the base at the annual KDOT softball tournament. For more photos, see page 6.

KDOT breaks ground on 87th Street interchange

Ground was broken July 20 on a \$50 million System Enhancement Project to reconstruct the 87th Street and I-35/US-69 interchange in Lenexa.

Secretary Deb Miller; Mike Boehm, Mayor of Lenexa; Ed Eilert, Mayor of Overland Park; Mac Andrew, Director of Johnson County Public Works; and Bill Clarkson, with project contractor Clarkson Construction, were featured speakers at the event.

“We have formed an excellent partnership with the Kansas De

Continued on page 4

Inside ...

- ◆ CREW MAKES HISTORIC CELEBRATION MEMORABLE
- ◆ TUITION PROGRAM OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYEES

- ◆ KDOT'S STATE FAIR BOOTH GETS A NEW LOCATION
- ◆ US-400 BYPASS PROJECT BENEFITS TRAVELERS
- ◆ PAMS KEY TO SPREADING KDOT'S MESSAGE



Miller's Time

*By Secretary
Deb Miller*

Health costs are a source of frustration

I have started my summer tour of the districts and have enjoyed meeting with many people I rarely get to see. I've had the opportunity to recognize their good work and hear what's on their minds.

During my visits to Altamont, El Dorado, Winfield and Phillipsburg I've been asked questions on topics ranging from direct deposit of checks to the lack of step pay increases. But the most commonly asked questions have dealt with the increasing costs of health care.

I heard frustration about getting a well-earned 3 percent pay raise in July, but still falling back financially trying to cope with family health premiums that rose more than three times that much in the past year.

High health costs and the resulting difficult choices families must make about how to spend their money are issues many are facing. Nearly 300,000 Kansans lack health insurance. And, of that group, more than 90 percent are either working or are members of working families.

Most Americans have been affected by access to or the high cost of health insurance. Congress has grappled with escalating health care costs and it is an important issue in this year's presidential election.

As a single person, my monthly out of pocket health care costs are modest. But for our employees with families, health care premiums are a major component of the family budget. While I was aware of that dynamic, hearing stories directly from our employees certainly gives me a perspective that reading statistics in my office just doesn't communicate. It is clear that health care costs create hardships for many of our employees and it is frustrating to have so little control over an issue that has such an impact.

Still, despite the costs, as state employees we are luckier than millions of Americans who go without health insurance. First, we have the option of belonging to a group health plan. Many U.S. companies no longer offer such plans.

When employees in the Districts talked to me about the State's health insurance program, many questioned whether

the state was aware of the escalating costs and whether it was doing anything to control the cost of our health care coverage. The answer is absolutely. Here are a few things to consider:

- ◆ The State currently pays approximately 95 percent of the cost of single coverage and 35 percent of the cost of dependent coverage of the low cost plan. In 2003, the state contributed \$162 million to its employees' health coverage. For 2004, the state increased its contribution by \$20 million to hold down the size of the increase passed on to employees.

- ◆ The state is helping to manage costs by offering multiple plans across the state and encouraging those plans to compete through pricing for your business.

- ◆ Every three years the state Health Care Commission puts out a Request for Proposals from companies who want to be on our health care list. Then, every year the state works with the providers to rework the contracts.

- ◆ The benefit staff at the Department of Administration works with health insurance providers to encourage the companies to add new providers or increase the existing provider's service area.

- ◆ Retirees are guaranteed continuous coverage as long as they pay the premiums.

At virtually every employee meeting, concern has been expressed about the lack of access for our qualifying employees to Health Wave. A federally-funded program, Health Wave provides health care coverage to children in low-income families who would go uninsured without it. Federal rules prohibit state workers from participating in the program. Attempts have been made at the federal level to make the dependents of state workers eligible for Health Wave, but, so far, those efforts have been unsuccessful.

In the 2001 legislative session, a bill was signed into law to provide a pilot program for an employer subsidy for children of active state employees who would otherwise be eligible for Health Wave. However, funding has never been approved for the pilot.

I wish I could address your concerns about Health Wave accessibility and lower the cost of your health insurance. But, I just don't have the power to implement the changes that will provide the relief you want.

I can assure you, however, that your health care is a concern for those in the highest levels of state government. Governor Sebelius is working on a plan to use the state's purchasing power to force reforms in the health care market place to contain costs and improve quality. The reforms she will propose will benefit state employees as well as persons covered by private health insurance.

Both the Governor and I understand that the cost and quality of health care are major concerns for you and other dedicated state employees, and we are committed to doing whatever we can to respond to those concerns.



Secretary Deb Miller speaks to members of the District One, Area Four maintenance crew at the Gage office at the Employee Recognition ceremony August 3.

Crew makes historic celebration memorable

I-70 and I-470 in Topeka got a makeover this spring by District One's Area Four maintenance crew in preparation for President George Bush and all the visitors scheduled to attend the 50th anniversary commemoration of Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site.

The Area Four Maintenance Team was honored as an Example of Excellence for the second quarter of 2004 for their efforts on this project. Secretary Deb Miller attended the event in Topeka on August 3.

"I was not surprised when Area Four folks were nominated for this award. After being there for several years, I know they have dedicated employees who do outstanding work," said Director of Operations Mike Crow.

Employees worked diligently to enhance the I-70 and I-470 corridors. Then just a few days before the ceremony, a number of last-minute requests from other governmental agencies were fulfilled such as loading and transporting 45 sections of concrete safety barrier used at the Capitol, transporting and placing Type III barricades to close streets around the Capitol, and providing and transporting 15 dump trucks to Monroe School. Most of this work occurred the

weekend before the ceremony.

"Nowhere was the 'can do' approach of Area Four more apparent than in the last few days preceding the ceremony," said Topeka Metro Engineer Jerry Younger. "I am very proud of Area

KDOT **Employee** **Recognition** **PROGRAM**

Four's large role in making this national event a success."

Members of the team include: Mike Appelhanz, Andrea Barnes, Fred Bond, Larry Bouton, Ronald Brownell, Robert Carrier, Pat Cobos, Roy Condley, Scott Crawford, Ken DeLong, Mark Godin, Tony Grier, Louis Hasenkamp, Darren Jennings, Chuck Kincade, Jeff LaCrone, Dennis Lane, Jerry Leitz, Adam Lynn, Leland Miller, Dale Musick, Frank Ortega, Dale Patterson, Leo Perry, Danny Reser, Steve Reser, Larry Rohr, Jim Rule, Warren Swank, Joe Terry, Wil-

lie Valdery, Ryan White, Jay Yost, Wade Zeckser, Holton Subarea, and Oskaloosa Subarea.

Other teams' efforts that were recognized with nominations include: District Two, Area Four, Subarea 244; District Five Crew Supervisor and Crew; and the Project 70-85 K 6778-01 Inspection Team.

Do you know of a KDOT group, team, unit, or office that has gone above the call of duty? Then nominate them for the Example of Excellence award. All KDOT employees are encouraged to suggest ideas and can now fill out Form DOT 1204. Once it is filled out, the nomination is sent to the selected Division Director, Bureau Chief, District Engineer, Area Engineer, or Subarea Supervisor who can then sign the form and submit the nomination to Transportation Information.

Hard copies of the form are still available by calling Transportation Information at 785-296-3585 and require the signature of one of the supervisors listed above.

The award is given quarterly with nominations for the third quarter due to the Bureau of Transportation Information by September 30. **-K.S.**

87th Street

Continued from page 1

partment of Transportation and the city of Overland Park in efforts to improve this major interchange,” said Boehm. “And we are very pleased to be working with Clarkson Construction Company on the project.”

The cornerstone of the finished project will be a type of freeway interchange known as a Single Point Urban Interchange, or SPUI. This new type of interchange will mean fewer delays, increased capacity, and safer operations.

“I am very pleased to see this project move forward to construction,” said Secretary Miller. “This has truly been a partnership effort between the State of Kansas and the cities of Lenexa and Overland Park and shows what can happen when state and local units of government work together toward a common goal. Because of the Kansas Legislature’s renewed commitment to the Comprehensive Transportation Program, important projects like this one will be constructed as promised.”

The majority of the project involves the reconstruction of the 87th Street bridge at I-35, which will result in the closure of all entrance and exit ramps at that location for 15 to 18 months beginning next spring. A recent traffic study showed that 42,400 vehicles travel the four ramps daily.

Closing the ramps at I-35 and 87th Street will shorten the overall construction schedule by several months, providing significant cost savings. While those ramps are closed, however, US-69 will be fully operational again.

“Probably the greatest disruption will be next spring when they close all those ramps,” said KDOT Metro Engineer Mick Halter. “Those people will have to use 75th Street and 95th Street. But we will maintain traffic on 87th Street in two lanes in each direction. This whole project will address the problem of access issues, accidents and traffic backups. There are too many signals too close together.”

The signalization problem will be



Secretary Deb Miller speaks at the 87th Street & I-35/US-69 interchange reconstruction ground-breaking ceremony in Johnson County. Others seated on stage are Warren Sick, State Transportation Engineer; Mike Boehm, Lenexa Mayor; Ed Eilert, Overland Park Mayor; Mac Andrew, Johnson County Public Works Department; Bill Clarkson Sr., Clarkson Construction; and Ed DeSoignie, Heavy Constructors Association of the Greater Kansas City area.



Lenexa Mayor Boehm, left, and Overland Park Mayor Eilert join Secretary Miller for the ceremonial groundbreaking. Officials broke ground using a backhoe provided by Clarkson Construction, the contractors on the project.

fixed with the installation of the single-point urban interchange, providing a signal arm that will span the entire width of the new 87th Street bridge. This will be the first in the Kansas City area of its kind.

The SPUI will replace the existing diamond interchange and bring vehicles from all four directions that are intending to make left turns to a single point, which is controlled by a traffic signal. Separate turn lanes will be available for drivers making right turns. The SPUI will allow the number of signals on the three-quarter-mile stretch of 87th Street being improved to be reduced from five to four and will create a 50 percent increase in lane capacity.

The traffic study also showed that a total of 236,900 vehicles travel daily throughout the three major arteries of the interchange. Projected traffic counts for 2025 show that number climbing to 325,300, an increase of 27 percent.

“This is an exciting time as three years of planning and design come to an end and we begin the construction phase of this major interchange improvement,” said Mayor Boehm. “This project is in direct response to the public’s concern regarding east/west travel delays within the community, and our citizens will see a dramatic improvement in traffic flow once the construction on this important project is completed in the fall of 2006.”

Touring the Districts

Secretary Deb Miller is making trips to all the Districts this summer and fall. At right, Miller listens to employees' concerns at the Altamont Sub-area shop. Below, Miller talks with State Senator Greta Goodwin of Winfield, right, and Cowley County Administrator Leroy Alsop. In the final photo, radio reporters in Phillipsburg chat with Miller about highway projects in the area.



KDOT's State Fair booth gets a new location

If you're looking for the KDOT booth at the Kansas State Fair, go north. The booth is moving for the first time in 11 years. It will still be in the Eisenhower Building, but it will now be located on the north side of the building.

The Kansas Safety Belt Education Office and the Kansas Drunk Driving Prevention Office will share the KDOT booth. Together, a variety of information will be provided to the public on work zone safety, seat belt use, drunk driving prevention, child passenger safety, roundabouts, etc.

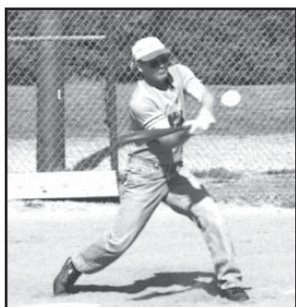
People who stop by the booth have the opportunity to play a trivia game highlighting agency programs or unique aspects of Kansas. Important informational numbers will also be available.

The Kansas Department of Commerce, Travel and Tourism Division, will be sharing a booth at the state fair with the Governor's office and the Department of Administration. The three agencies will be staffing the booth together.

They will be located next to the KDOT booth and will focus on the Mega Gigantic Giveaway. Travelers will be able to have their picture taken and enter the giveaway at the booth. KANSAS! magazine subscriptions and Getaway Guides will also be available. This will improve service to the public who may have different questions involving several agencies.

This year's state fair will take place from September 10 to 19. Operational hours of the booth will be from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on opening day, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Employees from District Five and the Bureau of Transportation Information work together to staff the booth. "District Five's assistance is a key to making our booth one of the best at the fair," said Steve Swartz, KDOT Public Information Officer. "Each year our booth gets better and better."



KDOT Softball Tournament



The third time was a charm as the annual KDOT softball tournament took place on August 14 at Gage Park in Topeka after being rained out two times earlier in the summer. Eight teams participated in the tournament with a picnic and games for kids as well.



PAM's key to spreading KDOT's message

By Steve Swartz

Whether they are facing the media after a tragedy, presenting a plan to city leaders or helping establish safe passage for horse-drawn buggies, Public Affairs Managers have become key components of how KDOT does business.

"They look at things differently than we (engineers) do," said Joe Palic, a District Two Area Engineer based in Marion. "Certain things we would overlook they would see and make a priority."

Palic is a supporter of the PAM position, which is a product of the Partnership Project. The new position, which was recommended by a P2 sub-team headed by District Five Engineer Bob Cook, was instituted in May, and replaces the position of Public Involvement Liaison.

"Our committee's objective was to increase KDOT's involvement in the community," said Cook.

"We had it in mind that we were going to expand the position to be proactive – not reactive. Instead of going out to the public to simply take input, the sub-team thought we needed to be more proactive in informing and educating."

The P2 Board of Directors agreed and decided to act on the recommendation as quickly as possible. The PAM position was approved for all six

districts. And, in late August, a seventh PAM position was added for the Wichita Metro office. Tom Hein, who had been the District Three PAM, has accepted that job.

"Nurturing relationships with communities is a cornerstone of P2. PAMs

KDOT's Public Affairs Managers

- ◆ District One – Open
- ◆ District Two – David Greiser
- ◆ District Three – Open
- ◆ District Four – Priscilla Petersen
- ◆ District Five – Martin Miller
- ◆ District Six – Kirk Hutchinson (currently on active military duty)
- ◆ Wichita Metro – Tom Hein

bring this expertise to the table and are a resource to be tapped. So, it was decided to move forward quickly on the sub-team's recommendation," said Julie Lorenz, Director of the Division of Public Affairs.

"We are actively sponsoring ribbon-cuttings and groundbreakings across the state to better highlight the good work that KDOT does," Lorenz said.

Such activities give Kansans a chance to see that KDOT is using their tax dollars wisely, said Priscilla Petersen, the District Four PAM.

"It seems that increasingly, year after year, people want their state agencies to be accountable," said Petersen, who recently organized a major ribbon-cutting ceremony for the US-400 project at Parsons.

"Taxpayers are saying this is our money you are spending on these projects and they want to see how it is being spent."

Taxpayers also need to know when major events that aren't positive happen in the state's transportation system, and the PAMs' expertise is invaluable in getting facts to the media quickly, completely and responsibly. When fatality accidents occurred in US-50 work zones in June, the PAMs took the lead in handling the crush of media inquiries. They delivered in a big way, said Palic, in whose area the accidents occurred.

"I was on the phone all day long," said District Two PAM David Greiser of the media inquiries he fielded after the accidents.

"We were the point of contact and that's how it should be. Martin Miller, (District Five PAM) and I were informed and prepared. This freed the Area and Construction Engineers to do their jobs and gave them a resource they could refer the media to," said Greiser.

Continued on page 12



Connie Nordstrom (second from right), former Administrative Officer to the Secretary, poses with the three Secretaries of Transportation she served - E. Dean Carlson, Deb Miller, and Michael Johnston, - at a luncheon in July in her honor. Nordstrom retired from KDOT in June.

Tuition program offers assistance to employees

KDOT offers a tuition program to help employees improve their job skills, knowledge, and abilities that are important to the agency. The following are some questions and answers about the tuition program.

1. Are all KDOT employees eligible for tuition assistance?

All regular employees (except those on temporary assignments) who have worked for KDOT for six months can participate in KDOT's tuition program.

2. What is the process to apply for tuition assistance?

To apply for tuition assistance, employees should give a completed tuition form to their immediate supervisor at least three weeks prior to enrollment. This ensures that the form is processed in time for enrollment. The employee's Senior Manager will send the form to the Bureau of Personnel Services for final approval. Once approved, employees will receive two copies of the form. One copy is for their files and the other is presented to the college when they enroll.

3. Where can I get a tuition form?

Employees can attain a tuition form from the KDOT Forms Warehouse by entering form number "0028" in the search function. The tuition form can be processed electronically using electronic signatures or by completing and signing hard copies of the form.

4. Are there guidelines on what classes can be taken?

To be eligible for tuition assistance, classes must directly and specifically fall within the scope of agency operations or they must reasonably contribute to KDOT's mission. This includes busi-

ness, computer, engineering, public administration, science, many elective classes, certain classes at vocation/technical schools, and classes to obtain a high school equivalency diploma. Workshops and seminars do not qualify for tuition assistance because they do not offer hours of college credit upon completion.

5. Do online and correspondence classes qualify for the tuition program?

Online and correspondence classes qualify for tuition assistance as long as they meet the guidelines.

Personnel Policies and Procedures

Highlights of your benefits as a State employee

6. What is the limit on tuition assistance that is offered to employees?

For graduate level courses that directly and specifically fall within the scope of agency operation, tuition assistance is limited to \$1,300 per Fiscal Year.

For undergraduate courses that directly and specifically fall within the scope of agency operations, tuition assistance is limited to \$1,100 per Fiscal



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Secretary Miller:

The new US-59 highway from Lawrence to Ottawa is scheduled to begin construction in 2007. As a result of this progress, my home and property has been identified as eligible for the early buy-out program. It is certainly difficult for us to accept this fact, and difficult for us to prepare for a move.

However, the personnel you have working for the Bureau of Right of Way have done a tremendous job in assisting us with answering questions, explaining procedures and making this adjustment seamless. I would like to commend Mr. Donald Verge and Ms. Ruth Malloy for their patience and support during this time of stress. They have never hesitated to return a phone call, explain procedures or stop by to ensure the process was going smoothly.

These two individuals are superb ambassadors for the Department of Transportation and have gone the 'extra mile' to make our transition as painless as possible. Their support and customer service is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kenneth Phipps
Lawrence

Continued on page 11



Former District Four District Engineers Dee Kimbell, John Leverenz and Roger Alexander, and current District Engineer Mike Stringer pose for a picture after the ceremony opening the US-400 bypass.

US-400 bypass project benefits travelers in southeast Kansas

The completion of the US-400 bypass not only slashes travel time by going around Parsons instead of through town, according to Secretary Deb Miller, but benefits travelers heading west from Missouri in a second time-saving way - they will not encounter a single traffic signal until they are close to Wichita.

Secretary Miller made her remarks during the July 23 dedication of US-400 at Parsons. The dedication, sponsored by KDOT and the City of Parsons, took place at the Stockyards Travel Plaza close to the US-59/US-400 junction on the north edge of the city. Other speakers of the morning included: Michael Johnston, President/CEO of the Kansas Turnpike Authority; Parsons Mayor Robert Bartelli; State Senator Dwayne Umbarger of Thayer; and State Representative Jeff Jack of Parsons. The dedication was finalized with a symbolic

ribbon cutting sponsored by the Parsons Chamber of Commerce.

Traffic was placed on the bypass in early July. The 10.9-mile section runs north around the community and is a relocation of the previous US-400 (Main Street) through the Parsons downtown area. The new highway starts 3.5 miles west of Parsons and ends 2.5 miles east of the city. The Comprehensive Highway Program incorporated the plan for US-400 at Parsons, and initially the project received System Enhancement funding for design, right-of-way and utility relocation. The construction phase was funded as a System Enhancement under the Comprehensive Transportation Program.

The bypass was built at an overall cost of approximately \$42 million. *-By Priscilla Petersen, District Four Public Affairs Manager*

Retirees

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in September.

District One – Northeast
Melvin K. Kleinschmidt, Engineering Technician Senior at Topeka – 25 years of state service.

District Five – Southcentral
Warren Stanton – District Five Materials Engineer at Hutchinson – 38 years of state service.

The following employees will officially retire from KDOT in October.

Headquarters

Harold Benoit – Bureau Chief of Engineering Support – 38 years of state service.

Sandy McDaniel, Senior Administrative Specialist in Administration – 28 years of state service.

District One – Northeast
Louis C. Shotton, Engineering Technician Senior at Olathe, 26 ½ years of state service

District Five – Southcentral
Daniel A. Maskil, Equipment Operator at Hutchinson – two years of state service

Deaths

Condolences to the family and friends of a former KDOT employee who recently passed away.

David G. Smith, 67, died July 30 in Sun City, Ariz. Smith was employed by the agency for 35 years serving in Iola, Norton, and Topeka before retiring. He is survived by his wife, Genevieve, three sons, four grandsons, a great-granddaughter, four brothers and a sister.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sun Health Hospice, 18702 N Routzahn Way, Sun City, Ariz., 85375.

United Way

Continued from page 1

to create a community that is a better place for people to live, work, play, raise a family, and grow old. The agencies supported by the United Way of Greater Topeka encompass a wide array of services, some of those agencies include: American Red Cross, Big-Brothers-Big Sisters, Boy Scouts of America – Jayhawk Area Council, Girl Scouts of Kaw Valley Council, Inc., Housing & Credit Counseling, Inc., Jefferson County Service Organization, Kansas Children’s Service League, LULAC Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, TARC, Inc., YMCA and YWCA.

“We have a tendency, I sometimes think, to believe that the United Way is supporting services for poor people. While certainly many of the services provided by the United Way help set a safety net for members of our community, they’re providing support to all kinds of organizations that many people rely on in their daily life even if they do that without knowing it,” said Secretary Deb Miller. “Certainly the services they

provide are much more far reaching than many people may be aware of.”

On September 10, the United Way of Greater Topeka will launch its 2004 fund-raising campaign. As with many businesses across the area, the State of

‘I think it’s important for all members of our community to support United Way because United Way is supporting important services that all of us rely on.’

Secretary Miller

Kansas, including KDOT, will participate. Miller is this year’s Chairman for the State of Kansas’ United Way campaign.

“I think it’s important for all members of our community to support United Way because United Way is supporting important services that all of us rely on. Even if we think that those services are for other people, I think many would be surprised to learn that either people they know or care about need the services. Furthermore, we never know in our lives

when we’re going to need the services. I’ve certainly had that personal experience myself and the day you need those services you’re glad that they are already there and in place,” said Miller.

As always, KDOT will be participating in the United Way of Greater Topeka campaign various fund-raising events. Some of the events include:

- ◆ United Way Block Party – Thursday, September 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the south parking lot of the Harrison Center.
- ◆ United Way Motorcycle Ride – Sunday, September 19.
- ◆ Lab/District One Steak Fry – Thursday, September 30, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the District One Conference Room.
- ◆ Breakfast/Book Sale/Gift Basket Raffle – October 14.

Employees will also have the opportunity to support United Way’s efforts through payroll deductions or cash donations.

This year, KDOT’s United Way campaign is being led by committee chairs Rebecca Rochelle, Program Management, and Susan Maxon, Engineering

Welcome new KDOT employees!

Headquarters

Kathleen Deitering, Engineering Associate I, Traffic Engineering
Christopher Harker, Engineering Associate II, Design
Brian Nutter, Engineering Technician, Design

District One

Shaun Gomez, Utility Worker, Topeka

District Four

Richard Thomas, Engineering Associate I, Iola

Step Back in Time



A survey crew pays special attention to detail as they handle their work duties during a project in the late 1950s.

M I L E S T O N E S

KDOT salutes its employees celebrating anniversaries in August

10 YEARS

Earl Chism Horton
 Mike Hammes Topeka
 Mark Hurt Topeka
 Dalton McEachern El Dorado
 Chad Pittman Wamego
 Gary Scott Medicine Lodge

20 YEARS

Timothy Bickford Topeka
 Rick Bruner Topeka
 Gary Cox Topeka
 Lynn Gormley Horton
 Russell Lambert Topeka
 Robert Parker Stockton
 Frank Railsback Mankato

30 YEARS

Jesus Gonzalez Bonner Springs
 Michael Crane Garnett
 Dickie Jackson Fort Scott

The following employee celebrated a 10-year service anniversary in July.

Tommy McCartney Marion

40 YEARS

Donald Sims Topeka

The following employee celebrated a 20-year service anniversary in July.

Max Bell Salina

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

Kudos

to KDOT employees

District Three Administrative Officer Carla Mumma was selected as a 2003-2004 Outstanding Graduate Student in Public Administration by the Kansas Chapter of the American Society for Public Administrators. She accepted the award at a hooding ceremony in Topeka earlier this summer.

Tuition

Continued from page 8

For certain other courses that do not fall within the scope of agency operations, tuition assistance is limited to \$500 per Fiscal Year. However, such courses must reasonably contribute to KDOT's mission.

7. What responsibilities do employees have who receive tuition

assistance?

Employees must attain a class grade of 'C' or better, remain employed with KDOT for one year after completing the class, and send their class grade to the Bureau of Personnel Services within 60 days after completing it.

8. What resources are available to employees if they have further questions concerning tuition assistance?

The resources below have additional information about KDOT's tuition program.

- ◆ Standard Operating Manual (SOM.) 2.7.4. To locate this SOM, enter "Tuition SOM" in the KDOT Intranet's Search Function, or contact your area, district, or bureau office.

- ◆ Parizad Parav 785-296-0936 (Parizad@ksdot.org)

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of Transportation Information
 Docking State Office Building, 754-S



Governor: Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Transportation: Deb Miller
Chief of Transportation Information: Steve Swartz
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 Bureau of Transportation Information, Docking State Office Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan., 66612-1568, or phone (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/(TTY).

Calendar of Events

September 6 — State employees off for Labor Day holiday.

September 15 — 2 p.m. Construction Bid Letting at the Airport Hilton in Wichita.

September 10 — Highway Advisory Commission meeting conference call

September 14 - 11 a.m. KDOT Employees' Council Meeting, Seventh Floor Conference Room, Docking State Office Building.

PAM's

Continued from page 7

"I had other priorities regarding the scene itself. There was a conscious effort to utilize the PAMs and give a consistent message. I found David and Martin to be a big help," said Palic.

"Honestly," he added, "those guys are better at it than we (engineers) are."

While the PAMs are expected to take the lead in working with the media, Area Engineers, Maintenance Superintendents, and others who have had good relationships with reporters are encouraged to continue those relationships.

Although the PAMs have become experts in communicating KDOT's message to a large audience through television or newspaper interviews, ceremonies and public meetings, it is just as important that they be able to work one-on-one. It was that latter approach that put Miller in the cab of a Yoder Township road grader this summer talking about modern highway systems and horse and buggy transportation.

PAM Sub-Team members

Chairman Bob Cook, District Five Engineer; Tom Hein, Wichita Metro PAM; Martin Miller, District Five PAM; Jerry Haug, Construction Engineer, Wamego; Amy Rockers, Road and Design Engineer, Topeka; Chuck Oldaker, Area Engineer, Ulysses; Mark Davis, Maintenance Superintendent, Dodge City; Benny Tarverdi, Metro Engineer, Wichita; Ron Kaufman, Public Involvement Administrator, Topeka; Joe Blubaugh, Public Involvement Liaison, Topeka.

A Reno County interchange project to be let in 2006 temporarily will close a county road that members of the area Amish community use when going into Hutchinson by horse and buggy. So Miller wanted to find out if a proposed shoulder improvement on the four-lane K-96 would provide an acceptable, safe detour route for the slow-moving buggies.

When Miller came upon the township road grader, he flagged it down to

have a conversation with the operator, assuming he might know something about the buggies and how the county road was used. When Miller climbed into the cab, he discovered the operator was a member of the Amish community and did, indeed, know about the horse and buggy travelers. The operator was assured by the plan Miller described and his input became part of the process to find a safe detour for the buggies.

Miller's proactive approach in finding out how KDOT can best serve Kansans was just what the P2 sub-team had hoped for when they developed the PAM recommendation, said Cook.

"Martin's approach shows that we don't have to wait for the public to tell us what they want," said Cook. "We can go to them, whether it is at a public meeting or along a county road, and ask how we can best meet their needs."

"PAM is a real success story."

Promotions/Transfers

Headquarters

Amy Coon, Engineering Technician Specialist, Design

James Harrington, Equipment Planning Technician II, Construction and Maintenance

Glenn Larson, Professional Civil Engineer I, Construction and Maintenance

Albert Oyerly, Professional Civil Engineer I, Construction and Maintenance

Karla Thies, Administrative Specialist, Personnel Services

District One

Cathy Jones, Engineering Technician Senior, Kansas City

District Two

Michael Larkin, Engineering Technician Specialist, Junction City

Douglas Thirkell, Equipment Planning Technician II, Salina

District Four

David Riebel, Equipment Mechanic Senior, Iola

District Six

Jason Smith, Equipment Mechanic, Garden City

The Bureau of Personnel Services supplies information to Translines.

Kansas Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Information
915 SW Harrison - Room 754
Topeka, KS 66612-1568

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