

econnections



June 2008

The electronic newsletter of MoDOT District 4, Kansas City Area

Meetings/Training

Tuesday, June 10

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

Thursday, June 12 Room 236

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.

Tuesday, June 17

Munck Area Team Meeting
8:30 - 11:30 a.m., Room 255

Thursday, July 5

Resident Engineers
8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., Room 255

Events

Sunday, June 15

Father's Day

Friday, July 4

Independence Day
State Offices Closed



Monday - Thursday, July 7-10

AASHTO Mississippi Valley Conference
Westin Crown Center, Hosted by MoDOT
and KDOT

Let's Celebrate!

D4 Employees Receive Recognition

by Kerri Lewis

D4 celebrated its employees, taking the time to say "Thank You" on Wednesday, May 7 during the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon. Employees district wide enjoyed lunch and a presentation as they basked in the spotlight to celebrate another year of hard work and dedication to MoDOT. D4 once again had much to celebrate. It was recently recognized for being named recipient of the 2007 Missouri Quality Award and receiving a House Resolution for maintaining a safe transportation system during winter storms and spring flooding,



Many D4 employees took time out of their busy schedule to enjoy time with friends and coworkers during the celebration.

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News from Across the District

Condolences:

Our thoughts and prayers go to Brandon Daniel, Traffic Specialist, and his family on the loss of his grandmother, Gloria Tuttle, Saturday, May 3.

Our thoughts and prayers also go to the family and friends of MoDOT Retiree Marty Poffenbaugh, Maintenance Specialist on his recent passing. Marty worked as part of the building and landscape crew here at the district office, and was recently working as a 1,000-hour employee.

Condolences go to Eric Slaughter, Maintenance, and his family on the loss of his wife, Mrs. Charlene Slaughter on May 12.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Jesse Skinner, Urban Interstate Corridor and his wife Kristen on the birth of their baby boy, Logan. He weighed in at 4 lbs. 14 oz.

We also to congratulate Mark Sommerhauser, Project Manager and his wife, Joella, on the birth of baby girl, Sarah Elizabeth. Sarah was born at 28 weeks and weighed 2 lbs. 12 oz. and 15 inches long.

Congratulations to Resha Bailey, Traffic Systems Operator and her fiancé, Jauron, on the birth of their baby girl, E'mya Felicia. E'mya weighed 6 lbs. 11.8 oz.

Awards Update: And the winner is...

The Above & Beyond Award was presented to David Bower, Henry Uti, Don Hall, Josh Scott, Melissa Gaddis and Jennifer Vest for volunteering to plow snow this past snow season. This group showed that we all share the same mission and use teamwork creating a one team MoDOT.

The One Team MoDOT Award went to

Jeff Wolfe, Brad Kelley and JoAnn MacKay for their assistance with extra duties while their department staff were plowing snow.

John Fontana received the 2008 Award for Excellence in Practical Design for working with the Platte County Commission and their consultant on the design of the Off-System project of the Elm Grove Road Rehabilitation. John also received the One Team Award for his assistance in interfacing with the Ray County Commission in working to transfer the Henrietta Bridge over to the county.

The High Achiever Award was presented to Jeff Wolfe, on his lead work in setting up the Paseo Corridor Constructors network, in using services and configurations new to MoDOT and providing on-going support.

kcICON Work Begins with Ceremonial Groundbreaking



Shaun Schmitz

Sen. Kit Bond joined by a host of dignitaries turn the ceremonial dirt during MoDOT's kcICON Project groundbreaking ceremony April 18, 2008. Approximately 300 people gathered to honor the senior senator from Missouri who secured \$50 million to ensure a landmark Missouri River bridge for the region. Construction has started on the \$245 million design-build project that will widen Interstate 29/35 from four to six lanes from Route 210 to the northeast corner of the downtown freeway loop. Included is the reconstruction of five interchanges and the new, cable-stayed "Christopher S. Bond Bridge."



Work is under way in the Missouri River to construct the new, cable-stayed Christopher S. Bond Bridge. When the boom arm on the crane barge is fully extended, the tip of the boom extends about 50 feet above the top of the Paseo Bridge.



Jennifer Benefield

Celebrate

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Management team worked to provide a great celebration for all employees during the luncheon. From grilling to cheese, and baked beans to chips and soda, everyone was able to enjoy a BBQ lunch.



Corporate Ladder

Welcome to District 4

Senior Financial Services Technician
Kristina Downing

Area Engineer Damian Geyer

Community Relations Manager Kristy Hill

Assistant Equipment Technician
Ryan Monroe

Maintenance Worker Rufus Williams

Promoted

District Construction Liaison
James Bentley

Intermediate Equipment Technician
Bret Cox

Human Resources Manager
Belinda Fite

Regional Maintenance Supervisor
Bill Glazier

Senior Maintenance Worker
Deloris Goetz

Maintenance Crew Leader
David Johnson

Administrative Technician
Melanie Lanigan

Maintenance Worker Michael Lewis

Senior Maintenance Worker
James Reavis

Retired

Maintenance Superintendent
Tommy Phillips

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

D4's Continued Support

The American Red Cross recently recognized D4 at the employee luncheon by extending a heartfelt thank you to the district in appreciation for hosting the many blood drives and being a major supporter for the Red Cross. During their visit to the D4 office, the Donor Recruitment Representatives presented a plaque to Beth Wright and Karin Branch.

The most recent blood drive netted 20 donations from 23 attempts. Those who donated were placed in a drawing for prizes. The winners of the beaded lanyards (graciously donated by Pam Nugent) were Jackie Davis in Customer Service and Brad Kelley in Information Systems.



Jennifer Hammerman and Charlotte Moccia, American Red Cross Donor Recruitment Representatives presented Karin Branch, Business and Benefits and Beth Wright, District Engineer with a plaque thanking D4 for continued support.

More opportunities to donate will be available. Please keep in mind that one donation can save up to three lives.

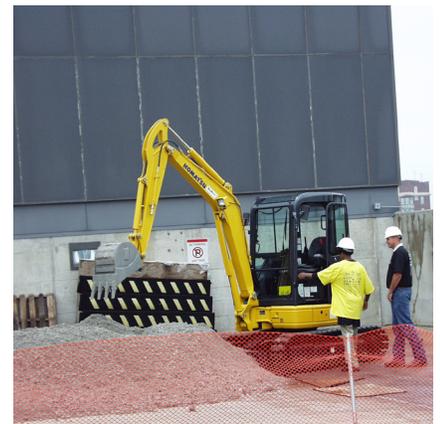
I-Build Event a Success

The annual I-Build Event proved to be another successful event for 2008. Several hundred 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.



Lisa Stupps watches as students learn the importance of not driving while impaired during an exercise with impaired driving goggles.

D4 participated, allowing the students to get a feel for the heavy equipment used. Many students enjoyed the opportunity to try on the impaired driving goggles and learning the important lesson to not drink and drive. Roundabout training was available and Scout shared its elaborate system including the Motorist Assist Vehicle.



Students received some hands on experience with some heavy equipment.

Mailbag

The family of Marty Poffenbaugh sent this note:
MoDOT Family,
Natalie and I cannot find words to express our gratitude for the beautiful flowers, the cards the emails and all the kind words.

We are so truly grateful to each and every one of you. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers

Becky and Natalie Poffenbaugh



Northland Crews to the Rescue

Early spring storms wreaked havoc in the northland. Tornadoes ripped through, causing much damage to homes, leaving a messy trail. MoDOT crews from the northland area aided emergency personnel, providing some much needed heavy truck assistance and manpower to aid in the aftermath left by the tornado. Cleanup was the first priority as downed limbs, power lines and debris littered the roadway, making them almost impassable. Luckily no one was injured during the evening storm.

A special thanks to the MoDOT employees who helped out: Wes Squire, Mike Milligan, Dave Blundell, Dan Watkins, Randall Easley, and Joe McQuillan.



Above: Crews worked diligently to clean up the mess left behind during the recent tornadoes.

Left: Wes Squire was one of the many MoDOT employees available during clean up.