

## THE COUNTY CONNECTION

*A newsletter written by and for employees of St. Louis County Government*  
*Charlie A. Dooley, County Executive*

**Spring 2004**

### Susan Lukwago

**Christmas Carol Puzzler  
Winner**

Susan Lukwago's (DOH) feet literally left the ground when we surprised her with her prize. The entire office of Community Health Education ganged up on her to shout "surprise!" At first, she thought she'd won Publishers Clearing House, but she was just as pleased to find she'd been randomly drawn from the twenty-eight correct submissions and had won the Christmas Carol Puzzler. Even later that afternoon, she told us, "My eyebrows are raised and I'm sitting about 3 inches off my chair!"

An avid *Connection* reader, she covers each issue from "top to bottom" and loves the puzzlers. She'd love it if the *Connection* came out more often so she could keep up with other employees, stay in touch with other County programs' success and know what's going on in the County.

Susan plans on thanking the County when she goes to the Whole Foods Market to spend

See **PUZZLER WINNER**, Pg. 8

### Esley Hamilton Champion for Local History

*by Diane Hirson*



There is only one photograph of Esley Hamilton with this "In the Spotlight" article because, by his own admission, when Esley is in action, it is usually in the dark.

Esley Hamilton is the historian for St. Louis County Parks and Recreation. Esley uses slides with his lectures, so the lights are off. If he is giving a historic site tour, he is using a bullhorn and everyone is looking towards where he points. And when he isn't lecturing or touring, Esley is incredibly busy teaching at Washington University, singing in his church choir, attending cultural performances or saving buildings. So most photographs of Esley are blurred anyway: you can't get him to slow down enough to get a shot.



**'ANCIENT' HISTORY** A native of Maryland, Esley came to this area in 1968 to work for Model City Agency in East St. Louis, the federally funded program to revitalize America's downtowns. That same year he was drafted to serve in Vietnam but his position as a planning consultant was considered so vital to the city that his recruitment was deferred. Esley remained a planner in East St. Louis until 1977, when he became a consultant to the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission, an advisory board to the St. Louis County Council. In 1980 he accepted the position of county historian and preservationist with County Parks.

**ESLEY COMES TO ST. LOUIS COUNTY** Esley's first responsibility was to conduct an in-depth inventory of historic sites in St. Louis County. Esley received a B.A. in English literature from Syracuse University and a M.S. in urban and regional planning

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## YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### This issue's feature takes a look at the Spirit of St. Louis Airport

By Sue Hendricks



Perhaps not all St. Louis County employees are aware of the fact that Spirit of St. Louis Airport is actually owned and operated by St. Louis County Government. Funding for Spirit Airport comes from the business enterprises of the airport, including fuel sales and real estate development - not general revenue tax dollars. The airport is totally self-supporting and makes a profit that is used to continually improve the facility.

**HISTORY** Spirit Airport encompasses approximately 1,500 acres in Chesterfield, Missouri, and its mission is to continue to be the prime reliever for Lambert Airport. It was originally opened in 1964 as a private general aviation (non-commercial) airport and was acquired by St. Louis County Government in 1979. Dick Hrabko, Director of Aviation, was here at its inception and remains in charge today. On July 30, 1993, the Chesterfield Monarch Levee breached and Spirit of St. Louis Airport was under more than nine feet of water. It was out of commission for the next three months. Since that time, however, the Airport has gained an even more important role in the region's air transportation system.

**EMPLOYMENT** In a recent economic impact study, it was found that \$398,141,800 are generated annually by the Airport and its adjacent industrial park. Approximately 3,000 people are employed at the 135+ companies based on the field. Spirit Airport itself employs seventeen St. Louis County Government employees, including a Director and Deputy Director of Aviation, an Airport Engineer, three office employees, and an eleven-person maintenance staff. The core of Spirit's security program is its police force, comprised of six of St. Louis County's finest police officers.

**SERVICES** Spirit Airport is home to more than 400 aircraft, including 125 jets. With its two runways and multiple landing systems, Spirit is used for general aviation aircraft, corporate aircraft, emergency medical flights, flight training, on demand air charter, air freight operations, public safety flights, occasional transient military operations, aerial photographing and mapping, and multiple aircraft maintenance and service facilities. The St. Louis County Police Department flight operations, including the Tactical Unit, are located at Spirit. In addition, Spirit offers 24-hour U.S. Customs services. Many St. Louis corporations base their aircraft at Spirit because of its proximity to their homes in the Chesterfield / West County area. Spirit is also a convenient destination for transient pilots wishing to avoid the

heavy traffic of Lambert Airport but still wanting the nearness to St. Louis. Spirit has been the Business Aviation Center for the Midwest for 40 years and a big anniversary celebration will be held later this year.



**NOISE CORRECTION** As a responsible neighbor, Spirit is always concerned about the noise levels affecting the neighbors in the surrounding subdivisions. A FAR Part 150 Noise Study is under way which will provide information to make

recommendations for the curtailment or correction of noise issues. Per an agreement with an outside contractor, local complaints are recorded and responded to in an effort to maintain the goodwill of Spirit's neighbors.

**EVENTS** Spirit has hosted the St. Louis County Fair and Air Shows over Labor Day Weekend for the last twelve years and has contributed \$1.4 million to the Children's Miracle Network. This year's event will feature the U.S. Navy Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team, the U.S. Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, and the AeroShell Team.



The annual Plane Pull held at Spirit has raised \$250,000 for Missouri Special Olympics.

Youth Aviation Day has been held at Spirit for the last few years. Sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association's Young Eagles Program, it allowed children ages 8-17 to have their first flight in an airplane. Their goal of having 1,000,000 youth take an airplane flight by the end of 2003 (the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of powered flight) was met.

The Landings at Spirit Golf Club, located adjacent to the Spirit of St. Louis Airport, is a unique and distinctive golf course. The land, which was once considered wetlands by the federal government and is the storm water detention for the airport, is now a links-style golf course with double greens and cascading fairways. It was in the planning stages for over ten years. While playing golf, you will have the opportunity to view take-offs and landings of the many aircraft at Spirit.



*The Mission of the Spirit of St Louis Airport shall be to provide a safe, efficient, dependable and attractive first class public facility that professionally serves the users and tenants. The airport will strive to maintain its role as a major air transportation facility for the St. Louis region, while continuing to be a responsive and responsible neighbor to the surrounding community.*

ESLEY HAMILTON  
continued from Page 1

from the University of Wisconsin. That educational combination of language and architecture – along with a razor-sharp memory, a bottomless curiosity and a “sweat” for details – led Esley to excavate numerous historic treasures throughout St. Louis County, many no one knew existed. Since 1980, he has found significant value of over 200 properties, including an outhouse on Henry Avenue in Manchester that recently was accepted to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Henry Avenue Historic District.

**A GOOD REPUTATION** Esley’s word is immensely respected. In Florence Hinkle’s feature article on Esley published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last October, “the county’s inventory of historic buildings now is quoted like Scriptures by preservationists, as is Hamilton himself. ‘Esley said’ shores up a building’s historical merit the same way that a beam shores up the building itself.”

**BATTLING FOR HISTORY** Esley’s pleasant personality and relaxed dress belies his ability to talk and write powerful messages that have changed the neighborhoods of St. Louis County, and literally changed the course of highways. He recently convinced a panel of archaeologists and engineers from MoDOT that the new path of Highway 40 had to be moved to save three homes on Bennett Avenue in Richmond Heights due to their rich civil rights history.

Wistful memories may be a reason why St. Louisans want certain buildings to be saved, but Esley bases his claims of a structure’s historic worth on fact. He digs deep into dusty shelves of libraries and city hall basements, reading old newspapers, analyzing architectural renderings and poking through government records. He drives throughout the County, taking photographs of both the certain and the possible historic gem.

Even armed with evidence, Esley still has his battles, primarily with developers. For instance, Hazelwood’s Utz Tesson home, built as early as 1782, sat empty for years on Utz Road in the middle of Tesson Park Estates. The developer of the property wanted to raze it and Hazelwood didn’t have the money to move it. Esley worked for eight years to save the house, circulating fliers seeking a buyer, running ads in national publications, even placing it at the top of the County’s most

endangered sites. His diligence paid off when the owners of the Mills Mall moved it to Hazelwood’s Brookes Park as a goodwill gesture to the city.

**EDUCATING FUTURE HISTORIANS** Since 1992, Esley has been an assistant professor at Washington University School of Architecture, teaching historic preservation and history of landscape architecture. He is a sought-after speaker on topics of art, architecture, planning and history, always using his personal slide collection. He leads countless tours of historic sites for St. Louis County, Missouri Historical Society, National Trust for Historic Preservation and other groups. Esley has been the curator for numerous exhibitions and sits on the boards of both local and national organizations.

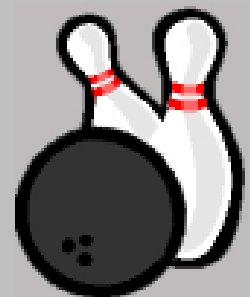
**CURRENT ENCOUNTER** The author of several books and an abundance of articles in professional and academic publications, Esley frequently writes inspiring letters to the editor of the Post-Dispatch. The latest one was on the incompetent design of the cut stone deck built in front of the Art Museum that now completely blocks the amazing view of Forest Park. Esley’s letter caused enough of a stir that the committee that approved it is now rethinking its decision. KMOX’s Charlie Brennan talked about it on his morning show and the panelists on Channel 9’s *Donnybrook* voted 4-to-1 in favor of Esley’s stance on the issue.

**ROOTED IN THE COMMUNITY** Esley has never owned a television, seeing it as “a time waster.” He lives in University City, sings tenor in his church choir, reads French and Italian, and is a connoisseur of all things cultural including live theatre, music – blues to the classics – and fine dining. But don’t be fooled by his sophisticated interests: Esley is very approachable and down-to-earth – he is just as apt to be eating a sandwich from a Clayton fast food place with his work buddies or taking in a movie just for the fun of it.

**A HUMBLE CHAMPION** Even with all his accomplishments, honors and awards Esley is sincerely modest. “I just try to live up to the goals set in 1957 by the St. Louis County Historic Buildings Commission, the oldest public preservation body in Missouri,” said Esley, “I am continuing the work set by previous generations’ high standards. It is a grand tradition.”

ST. LOUIS COUNTY EMPLOYEES’ BOWLING LEAGUE

Beginning Thursday, May 20th, at Olivette Bowl, the St. Louis County Employees’ Bowling League will begin its summer season which will run approximately 12 – 14 weeks. Teams consist of 5 bowlers. Only one team member needs to be either a County or State employee. If you have a new team that would like to join, please contact the League’s Vice President / Treasurer, **COLLEEN EVERSON** (JA) at 314-615-2667 or [ceverson@stlouisco.com](mailto:ceverson@stlouisco.com). The team captains’ meeting will be held in early April so don’t delay!





# Department Notes



## HEALTH

Our congratulations go to **DENISE STREHLOW**, Public Health Consultant and community liaison, who was elected to the office of Vice President of the St. Louis Chapter of the Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA). The election results were announced at the MPHA's January 21st meeting. MPHA is a non-profit organization established in 1925 to improve the health of all Missourians. Other members of the Executive Board include **JOAN BIALCZAK** (DOH), Bruce Yampolsky, Patricia Parker, Saralou Henderson, Nancy Jones and Blanca Domingorena.



## HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC

A pair of Highways and Traffic projects received awards for engineering and construction excellence at the Missouri / Kansas Portland Cement Concrete Paving Conference on March 10. A reconstructed intersection on Earth City Expressway at Riverport Drive in Maryland Heights netted first place in the conference's "Concrete Overlays - City Streets" category, while the Department's \$3.6 million improvement project on Cypress Road in Bridgeton and St. Ann won identical honors in the category of "County Roads." The Department's resident engineers on the jobs were **RICH BUNCH** (Earth City Expressway) and **CHARLIE LORENTZ** (Cypress Road). **RUSS LEACH**, Engineering Supervisor for the Division of Construction, attended a March 10th awards ceremony in Kansas City to accept plaques for both projects.

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Led by the Division of Planning's **STEPHANIE LEON** and **RICHARD BECKMAN**, the Hanley Road Corridor Study steering committee members officially announced their support for proposals to improve the flow of traffic at two especially problematic motor vehicle 'choke points' on Hanley Road. In addition to the Department of Highways & Traffic, the committee consists of the cities of Richmond Heights, Maplewood and Brentwood and has, with the assistance of an engineering consulting firm, closely examined potential remedies to increasingly heavy traffic on Hanley, from its intersection with Highway 40 south to the area where Hanley turns into Laclede Station Road. Following a Jan. 22 public hearing and after numerous meetings with Hanley Road business owners and elected officials, the committee will now explore funding options for its two 'preferred alternatives,' the first of which calls for a four-lane bridge on Hanley over Manchester Road and the second of which would funnel north-bound Hanley traffic onto Eager Road via tunnel.

A two-week blitz of blizzards in late January and early February meant many long hours for the Department's 250-person winter storm team. Plow drivers, salt loaders, mechanics, dispatchers and office personnel were all equal to the task of their numerous 12-hour shifts, if public accolades are any measure. Many taxpayers called, emailed or wrote letters of commendation for the Department's work, with one Florissant resident penning a missive to the Post Dispatch on the chivalrous conduct of District 1's **MIKE MCMAHON**. The resident, a senior citizen, was distressed to find the morning paper planted in the middle of her snow-encrusted street just as McMahon's plow truck growled into view. Instead of obliterating the paper with his 1,250-pound plow blade, McMahon stopped his truck, got out and handed the resident her morning reading. In the course of fighting six major storms from January 25 through February 6, Highways and Traffic personnel worked 8,238 overtime hours and dispensed 8,227 tons of salt throughout the Department's network of 3,200-plus lane miles of road.

# WELCOME!

Katie Butenhoff (H&T)  
David Gundermuth (Spirit)  
Andrew Kleffner (BOE)  
James M. Knoll (H&T)  
Tim V. Mullinax (H&T)

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A Barrett Station Road bridge built in the early years of the Second World War has been removed and is now being replaced under a \$1.6 million project led and overseen by the Department. Located immediately south of the County's Museum of Transport, the structure spans a gorge through which a pair of Union Pacific railroad tracks run. Traffic will be prohibited at the site for at least six months while a new concrete and steel span is erected. **ART LAMPE**, Division of Construction, is the project engineer. Gershenson Construction is performing the work.

## HUMAN SERVICES



DHS' County Older Resident Program (CORP) collaborates with the Higher Education Channel (HEC TV) to produce "Living Well", an hour long magazine format show airing every Tuesday and Sunday at 5:00 PM. "Living Well" presents information for and about older adults. CORP volunteers are the in-studio anchors for the show, while additional CORP volunteers work both in front of and behind the cameras. **RICK LEE** and **MARG BRAZIE** of CORP staff provide support and help arrange interviews. Recent shows have featured fly fishing, bridge, softball and volleyball, distinguished St. Louis older adults, the Black Rep, segments commemorating the Lewis and Clark Expedition, as well as tips on financial health, travel, nutrition, physical health and more. Tune in and learn how to live well.

CORP volunteers are preparing for the 14th annual production of Broadway Fantasies. The 2004 show, entitled "Backstage Follies" will be presented at Marquette High School, June 11-13. Highly talented older adults join forces with energetic youth to present a song and dance revue that benefits the Office of Family and Community Services. Reserved seat tickets are \$15.00. For further information, call **SUSAN SCHAFERS** at 615-4019.

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Since 1994, CORP's Volunteer Plus program has endeavored to obtain volunteer opportunities for developmentally disabled people, to support them in learning independent living skills, and to provide follow-up services to both the clients and volunteers. In 2002-2003, Volunteer Plus participants accounted for 2,068 hours in service to the community, and have totaled almost that amount in the first eight months of this grant year! The staff is always on the lookout for projects for these groups and the in-home volunteers. If your department thinks Volunteer Plus could be of assistance to you, please call **JIM LAUGHLIN** at 615-4556.

**JUSTICE SERVICES**

Officer Michele Wright-Berry received a Director's Citation for performing the Heimlich Maneuver on an inmate.

**REVENUE**

Effective February 4, 2004, **ROBERT H. PETERSON** was appointed as Director of Revenue for Saint Louis County. Mr. Peterson had served as Acting Director of Revenue since October 1, 2002.

Prior to being appointed as Acting Director, Robert "Bob" Peterson worked in the Department of Revenue for over 44 years in different capacities. He worked for 11 years as a Draftsman, 18 years as Map and Automation Supervisor, 14 years as Collector of Revenue and more than two years during two separate appointments as Acting Director of Revenue.

As Director of Revenue, Bob manages 270 staff members in the Department of Revenue. The Revenue Department is responsible for administering a tax levying system and collecting fees which generate the funds necessary for Saint Louis County Government and other political subdivisions to provide services to County residents. The system includes property assessment, tax collection, recording of instruments, mapping and the issuance of various licenses for Saint Louis County.



**REVENUE EMPLOYEES ARE ALWAYS ON DUTY!**

On December 21<sup>st</sup>, **PAT RABBITT** (Rev) was on the operating table. While administering anesthetic, the doctor asked Pat where he worked. After sharing he worked for the Department of Revenue, an attending nurse mentioned she was concerned that she had not yet received her personal property tax bill. Pat instructed her on what to do to ensure she paid her taxes on time. When Pat saw the nurse again at his post-op appointment, she apologized for the timing of the question but thanked him for his assistance.

Do you have an example of extraordinary service to share? Contact Kathy Eller at 314-615-5430 to send in your story.

Effective February 1, 2004, **PHILIP A. MUEHLHEAUSLER** was promoted to the position of Assessor. Prior to this appointment, Phil Muehlheausler served for two years as Acting Assessor. His more than 26 years employed with the County include 7 years as a Residential Appraiser, 3 years as a Residential Team Supervisor and 11 years as Appraisal Supervisor.



Phil is a member of the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers, the International Association of Assessing Officers, the Missouri Assessors Association and the Missouri Mappers Association. He is also a State Certified Appraiser recognized by the Missouri Real Estate Appraisers Commission.

As Assessor, Phil manages 180 staff members of the Assessment Division, Department of Revenue. The Assessment Division discovers, identifies, classifies and assesses all real and personal property within Saint Louis County.

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Faced with the biennial printing of its *Townships and Precincts by Street Address* book, the Election Board has taken steps to bring printing costs into line with the realities of an increasingly strained County budget.

Long a mainstay of the political process, the street guide book has been used by office-seekers and political activists to identify a voter's township and precinct to determine which political district an address falls in. One copy is also sent to each polling place to redirect voters who show up at the wrong location.

Acting on an Election Board request, REJIS came up with an 11" x 8-1/2" format to replace the 5" x 8" mainstay, resulting in a thinner book and allowing in-house binding of the mainframe produced pages.

The real savings came from curtailing the number of books produced. In 2002, 1,550 books were printed. This year only 600 books were ordered, with the internet picking up the slack. With the almost universal accessibility of the internet, the same information formerly contained in our 800 page book is now at everyone's fingertips. The ink, paper, and labor that went into producing these books has been replaced by a mouse-click. To find your polling place, ballot issues & elected officials, go to [www.stlouisco.com/elections](http://www.stlouisco.com/elections).

## ANNIVERSARIES

### 30 Years

Paul Bertillo (H&T)  
Leonard "Country" Buettner (H&T)  
Wayne Gromadzki (H&T)  
Charles McCullough (H&T)  
Roy Mueller (JS)  
Elizabeth Thomas (Admin)

### 25 Years

Eric Baumgartner (JS)  
Delrena Foster (HS)  
Dan Georges (Plng)  
Ron Hill (HS)  
Rick Lee (HS)  
Polly Moore (JS)  
Marie Sandt (HS)  
Sandra Travis-Harden (HS)  
Dave West (JS)

### 20 Years

Josef Beran (H&T)  
Theodore Dashley, Jr. (H&T)  
Tina Hayes (JS)  
Bob Jones (JS)  
Karen Kleyunas (PA)  
William Lawder (HS)  
Helen Madison (HS)  
Leonard McDonald (HS)  
Melissa Moore (BOE)  
Daniel Morgan (JS)  
Patti Otto (PA)  
Dwayne Robertson (H&T)  
Dean Waldemer (PA)  
Wayne Weible (HS)

### 15 Years

Bonjiovonna Bonner (JS)  
Danny Crossland (Spirit)  
Anne Hardee (HS)  
James Walker (JS)  
Toni Wells (HS)

### 10 Years

Stanley Allison (Admin)  
Larry Bollinger (H&T)  
William Conlon, Jr. (H&T)  
Gregory Edwards (H&T)  
Wafaa "Fay" Ellatif (HS)  
Marilyn Fountain (BOE)  
John Gratz, III (Admin)  
Xerxes D. King (Admin)  
Michael O'Fallon (H&T)  
Deb Purley (Plng)  
Linda "Sue" Schaefer (HS)  
Michael Shannon (H&T)  
Linda Snyder (HS)  
Kevin Vilmer (JS)  
Jacqueline Zengel (HS)

### 5 Years

Kelly Clarkin (PA)  
Brett Cleland (JS)  
Jonel Coleman (JS)  
Rhonda Daniels (HS)  
Janice Davis (JS)  
Myra Gooden (JS)  
John Hylla (PA)  
Ann Ivory (HS)  
Sherry Jokerst (HS)  
Delores Lacey (HS)  
Bobbie LeFlore (HS)  
Sam Lollie (JS)  
Quintin McKinney (JS)  
Joanne Merritt (JS)  
Chrissy Mitchell-Nash (HS)  
Janice Moreno (BOE)  
Steve Robinson (HS)  
William Rogers (HS)  
Janice Savory (HS)  
Joyce Ugweje (HS)

## RETIREMENT



**BARB BERRA** (Rev) retired 3/1/04 after over ten years of service. Barb met her husband, **FRANK BERRA** (Admin), Director of Procurement and Administrative Services, while working for the County. Prior to her retirement, Barb worked in the Licensing Division of the Department of Revenue as an Office Services Coordinator. Barb has four children, two stepchildren and seven grandchildren. In her retirement, she hopes to pursue her hobbies of antiques, sewing, crossword and jigsaw puzzles. She also plans to join the Red Hat Society and work a couple of days a week.

Officer **BOBBY BUCHANAN** (JS) retired on February 1, 2004 after 29 years.

Polling Places Supervisor **BOB CHAMBERLAIN** (BOE) retired after 24 years.

**BOB GAMMON** (Rev) retired 2/1/04 after fourteen years of service. Bob was a Commercial Appraiser. His specialty was cell towers and billboards. Bob and his wife own a home in California, Missouri, where he will spend a lot more time now.

**JOHN GRELLNER** (BOE) retired after 7 years.

## new babies

Lauren Ann Atwell was born January 1, 2004, 6 lbs, 8 oz, 16". Although she was not the first 2004 baby, she is **TOM** (H&T) and **MARLA** (Plng) **ATWELL**'s 3rd granddaughter.

Congratulations to ...

... **KELLY CLARKIN-RICHARDS** (PA) and husband, Doug, on the birth of their first child, Thomas Neil.

... **VANESSA FARMER** (Rev) and Paul Eaton on the birth of a baby boy, Tylar Jacob Eaton, 7/15/03, 7 lbs, 3 oz, 21".

... **CHRIS FIALKA** (Admin), and wife, Sandy, on the birth of Amber Nicole, 11/10/03, 8 lbs, 5 oz.

... **LENNY KAGAN** (PA), and wife, Amy, on the birth of their daughter, Isabella Sharon, 9/25/03.

... **J.B. LASATER** (PA) and wife, Julie, on the birth of their first child, Jacob Peter.

... **TIM LEMEN** (PA) and wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their son, Carter.

... **JANET LUEDDE** (Cty Cncl) and husband, Tom on the birth of their first granddaughter, Audrey Marie, 11/6/03.

... **MARY ORTBALS** (Cty Cncl) and husband, Gerry, on the birth of their second grandson, Oscar Bolling Patton, 2/1/04.

... **CINDY SCHNEIDER** (Rev) on the birth of her first granddaughter Breanna Nicole Schneider, 12/29/03.

... **RICHARD WALL** (BOE) and wife, Heather, on the arrival of their baby boy, Ian Kelly, 10/16/03.

... **ERICA WAY** (HS) and husband, Jeremy, on the birth of their first child Major Alan Way, 2/16/04, 6lbs, 3 oz.

## EMPLOYEE VOICES

How did you propose  
or how were you proposed to?

### Bill Wolff (HS), Director Lakeside Center ...

I met my lovely wife of 33 years on the back seat of a Bi-State bus in the fall of 1969. She was a student at St. Louis University and doing phone sales for the now defunct Globe Democrat. I was a recent college graduate, had just moved to St. Louis with \$50 and a

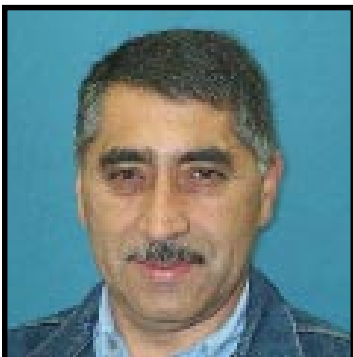


dufflebag, and was selling neckties at the old Stix, Baer & Fuller store downtown. Bonnie was the most beautiful person on the bus; so I sat down next to her. One day, to her consternation, I followed her off the bus into Rogers Hall - which at the time was an all girls dorm. Being a love-struck male who doesn't pay attention to details, I never noticed the engagement ring on her hand. In December, when I finally did notice it, I said goodbye and thought we would never meet again. My heart went into a deep cave.

In the spring of 1970, we met again. Bonnie had given back her engagement ring; we started dating regularly. During the summer months, I proposed. I think it occurred shortly after we had run through the open fields of Tower Grove Park and listened to the Beatles song "Here Comes the Sun." I didn't have enough money for an engagement ring, but we didn't need one. While bringing a vanload of disturbed adolescent boys home from a summer trip to the Grand Canyon, I stopped at a tiny New Mexico town for refreshments. While there, I walked into a jewelry shop typical of the sixties and wound up ordering our wedding bands - which I personally designed with two daisies (our favorite flower) on each ring. In a strange coincidence, the jeweler was actually from St. Louis!

Bonnie & I married each other on January 23, 1971, in Quincy, Illinois. I feel I am the luckiest guy ever!

### Orlando Montero (Spirit), Airport Mechanic I, as told to Sue Hendricks ...



Orlando has a very unusual story to tell about his first proposal. He had been working for the Chilean Government in the Museum of Natural History in Santiago, Chile. The military junta overthrew the elected government officials on September 11, 1973, and a lot

of people were killed, put into prisoner of war camps, or simply disappeared.

Although not charged with a crime, in 1975 Orlando was detained by the Secret Police and was sent to a concentration camp for political prisoners run by the Chilean Army. While there, he sought asylum through the United Nations and was given the opportunity to come to the United States. Although Orlando had a 3-year old son, he was not married. Therefore, he was not going to be able to bring his son with him. It was then that he proposed marriage to the mother of his child.

But the story doesn't end there. They were married in 1975 in the prison camp by a Justice of the Peace, witnessed by the Commanding Officer and two soldiers. After the wedding ceremony, she was sent home and he was made to stay in the camp.

When Orlando was released from the camp in 1976, after being in prison for fourteen months, he had no job and was given a specific date for the asylum flight to the United States. Orlando, his wife, and their son were able to arrange to come to the United States in 1977 after being sponsored by Catholic Charities in El Paso, Texas. They both got jobs and started going to school. Although the marriage didn't last, his proposal is certainly unusual!

### Brian Schaffer (P&R), Recreation Supervisor ...

I was a part-time Interpretive Park Ranger at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (GatewayArch), when I got the word that I finally got my first full-time job at the St. Louis Science Center. To celebrate, my girlfriend, Linette and I took a two-week road trip through the southwest. While watching the sunset from the south rim of the Grand



Canyon, I reached in my pocket and pretended to have a ring and asked her to marry me. The reason I pretended to pull out a ring is because the ring that I was having made was not ready before we left for our vacation. She said yes! We purchased a beautiful but inexpensive ring from a Native American jewelry stand in Arizona as a temporary engagement ring. Linette and I married in October 1997 and now have two children, Olivia, 5 and Maggie, 18 months.

**The County Connection - Spring 2004**

**PUZZLER WINNER**

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her gift certificate. She included coworker **EMILY PIKE** in her photo since Emily worked the puzzler with her.

Of the 76 submissions we received, here are the 28 employees who had ten correct answers. Many more employees were close, but these achieved perfection!



Susan Lukwago (left) and Emily Pike (right)

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jill Allen (DOH)       | Kathleen Jaycox (Admin)  |
| John Aughinbaugh (DOH) | Jen Killoren (Cty Cnslr) |
| Dorothy Bander (DOH)   | Mike Maloney (DOH)       |
| Mark Barry (Admin)     | Lora Mather (DOH)        |
| Harrison Bauer (H&T)   | Susan Means (DOH)        |
| Cyrene Beatty (H&T)    | Emily Pike (DOH)         |
| Julia Cornelius (P&R)  | Becky Rainwater (DOH)    |
| Mary Cranor (P&R)      | Nancy Rowbottom (Fam Ct) |
| Peter Dunn (P&R)       | Marilyn Russell (H&T)    |
| Laura Estes (PW)       | Tony Schott (Spirit)     |
| Chris Falk (PW)        | Missy Smith (Police)     |
| John Finger (JS)       | Bob Veatch (Rev)         |
| Barb Grayson (DOH)     | Jennifer Western (DOH)   |
| Warren Jackson (DOH)   | Michael Zlatic (DOH)     |

**NAME THAT CHRISTMAS CAROL SOLUTIONS**

Apartment of Two Psychiatrists  
*The Nutcracker Suite*

Quadruped with Vermillion Proboscis  
*Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*

Bleached Yule  
*White Christmas*

Singular Yearning for the Twin Anterior Incisors  
*All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth*

Righteous Darkness  
*Oh Holy Night*

Array the Corridor  
*Deck the Halls*

Query Regarding Identity of Descendant  
*What Child Is This?*

Coetaneous-Colored Seed Vesicated in a Conflagration  
*Chestnuts Roasting On An Open Fire*

Arrival Time: 2400 Hours – Weather: Cloudless  
*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

Monarchical Triad  
*We Three Kings*

**St. Louis County Trivia**

How well do you know the County? Take a shot at these questions and find out! Submit your answers to the Division of Personnel by April 9<sup>th</sup> for a chance at a prize.

1. Who was the **first** St. Louis County Executive?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many County Council Members are on the Council?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What year was the first County Charter adopted?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How many pay periods are there in a year?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who is responsible for the passage of the ordinances that govern the operation of the County?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. If you needed a building permit, what department would you obtain it from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. St. Louis County covers an area of how many square miles, within 5 miles?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How long is the term of a Civil Service Commissioner?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Who is the current Director of Planning?  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How many merit system employees, within 50, are employed by the County?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Contributing Editors**

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Dick Bauer     | Barbara Hughes   |
| Laura Berry    | TeeJay Jaedemann |
| Cindy Davies   | Gail Ottolino    |
| Johnita Grimm  | Sharon Remaklus  |
| Sue Hendricks  | Tricia Rodgers   |
| Diane Hirson   | Ellen Waters     |
| Jeannette Hook | David Wrone      |

Thanks to everyone for another great issue!  
Kathy Eller & Fannie Lindo