

# The County Connection

Saint Louis COUNTY

A newsletter written by and for employees of St. Louis County Government  
 Buzz Westfall, County Executive



## Karen Bowen, Raggedy Ann and Andy

by Sue Hendricks

What has bright red hair, a smile that won't quit, and a heart on the outside of its chest? That's right, Raggedy Ann! Karen Bowen, who has worked for St. Louis County for the last seven years as an Office Administrator at Spirit of St. Louis Airport, keeps her "spirits" high with a fun collection. It all started about twenty years ago when she and some of her friends were on a trip. She saw an adorable Raggedy Ann and Andy doll set for only \$35, bought it, and got hooked on collecting them. Ever since then, Karen's Mom (who happens to be a porcelain doll collector) started buying Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls for her, then Karen's friends and the rest of the family followed suit. Interestingly, Karen didn't have even one Raggedy Ann or Andy doll as a child.

**The Search** Karen started searching for the dolls at garage sales, flea markets, online, and anywhere else she could find them. She said it is obvious the dolls have been truly loved by children, as some of them are in pretty rough condition. Their tin eyes might be a bit scratched up, their hair disheveled, and their aprons and pantaloons missing. Although the dolls' clothes can be washed, she can't wash the bodies without risking ruining them.



Karen Bowen and her friends

Karen now has about 200 dolls ranging in size from just a few inches up to about 60" tall. Her collection includes Georgette dolls (from '40s & '50s) and Knickerbocker Toys ('60s). Applause and Play Skool took over in 1982, both of whom are still manufacturing them. Karen said the Andy dolls are a bit more difficult to find. The dolls are generally not sold in sets.

Karen's collection also includes very old hand made dolls that are worth a lot of money.

**The History** Karen found that, not only was it fun to collect the dolls, but delving into their history became quite a delight for her as well. In the earlier dolls, the eyes were made of tin buttons. The really old dolls had a black outline around their triangular noses, which helps depict their age. When Knickerbocker took over, they switched to plastic eyes. The hair of the dolls is made of yarn, and the hair color has changed over the years from an

orange color to a deep red. The dolls are cotton and easily held. The forever smile makes you look at them and smile right back – a great pick me up when you are feeling down. Each doll has a little red heart on its chest. Originally, the hearts were made of candy, but this became too much of a

*Continued on page 5*

### In this Issue

- Your County Government:
  - Highways & Traffic
- This & That
- Puzzler Winner
- Congratulations
- Department Notes
- Employee Voices
- Money-Saving Ideas for Holiday Gifts
- What do you think?
- Puzzler Solutions

# YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

As always, we focus on one county department in this feature. This quarter, the Department of Highways & Traffic gives us an update on their major projects and issues.

## CITIZEN INPUT INTO ROAD PROJECTS NOW A CLICK AWAY

by David G. Wrone

Residents eager to drive home their thoughts on proposed road improvement projects in Saint Louis County can now do so with a few raps on their computer keyboard, thanks to a new Department of Highways and Traffic web page feature.

Highways personnel hope large numbers of citizens take advantage of the new option. "The opinions that county residents express to us in regard to project proposals are a critical component to our long-term planning process," said community liaison Dennis Bice. "We want to hear what taxpayers think, and we want to give them every opportunity to communicate with us, whether at a public meeting, over the phone or through the internet. Our new 'resident feedback' feature gives us another avenue by which to solicit and receive input from the people who are going to be most affected by any work we do."

Maps and text descriptions of two pending road projects (Barrett Station Road – AR-854 and Kehrs Mill Road – AR-857) presently are posted for review on the Highway web page. After going to Saint Louis County Government's main page at [www.stlouisco.com](http://www.stlouisco.com), residents can click on the "Highways and Traffic" icon under "government" on the right hand side of the screen. Under "Divisions," click on the "Planning" icon, which will transport you to the individual page for the Division of Planning, which created and monitors the new web site commentary program.

On the menu bar to the left of Planning's page, click on "Roadway Ideas." On this page, users may peruse plans for



Barrett Station Road - AR-854 Plan

either Barrett Station Road or Kehrs Mill Road. (Additional projects will be posted on the site as they are developed.) Icons for both proposed projects are on the menu bar to the left of the page. A click on either one will bring up maps and textual explanations pertaining to the respective plans.

A "comment" icon may be accessed for either job. Bice strongly encourages web visitors to click on them and share their opinion, whether favorable or otherwise. Above all, the Department wishes to obtain as clear and as accurate an idea as possible about the public's willingness to support significant roadway improvement jobs contemplated for their neighborhoods. "Citizen/department interaction has always been integral to us," Bice continued. "Simply put, we can't factor feedback into our planning process unless we receive it."



## HOMEOWNERS ASKED TO PARK OFF-STREET DURING AND AFTER MAJOR SNOW STORMS

by David G. Wrone

County residents are respectfully asked to remember – when at all possible – to park their motor vehicles off the street during and after major snow storms. A file of cars and trucks on residential lanes greatly inhibits Highways and Traffic forces in their critical task of plowing and salting those streets clear of snow and ice. Narrow, cul-de-sac streets are especially problematic for the cumbersome dump trucks to navigate. Motorists are also reminded to keep at least 50 feet between themselves and any snow plow they encounter ahead of them. Plow operators' vision is hindered by the sheer size and bulk of their machines, making it difficult to observe cars and trucks that venture in too close behind them. Tailgating drivers pose a danger to themselves, the greater driving public and the plow operator. Please give the plows a respectful and safe berth.



Marla Atwell (PIng)  
 Allisom Boyd (DHS)  
 Paula Caby (DHS)  
 Colleen Condren (Pros Atty)  
 Tracy Darnel (Fam Ct)  
 Kate Drewry (Fam Ct)  
 Rechelle Hembree (DHS)  
 Tiffany Hess (DHS)  
 Amy Hill (DHS)  
 Jennifer Hyatt (DHS)  
 Katherine Jecklin (Pros Atty)  
 Julie Johnson (Fam Ct)  
 Kathi Kaltenbach (Fam Ct)  
 Jerelyn Kennedy (Rev)  
 Nina Kimbrough (Fam Ct)  
 James Laughlin (DHS)  
 Carolyn Marshall (PW)  
 Theresa Miller (Fam Ct)  
 Bonnie Miller (Fam Ct)  
 Philip Partridge (DHS)  
 Elizabeth Porter (DHS)  
 April Schuette-Wilson (Admin)  
 Shaune Scott (Fam Ct)  
 Paula Shanklin (Pros Atty)  
 Benny Shields (PW)  
 Heidi Stubits (DHS)  
 Michael Suddarth (Rev)  
 Nancy Ulman (DHS)  
 Michael Wallis (Fam Ct)  
 Meaghan Westhus (Fam Ct)

# This & THAT

## CONDOLENCES

- Pat Sheahan (Rev) upon the death of her mother.
- Judie Wilfong (Rev) upon the death of her mother November 16<sup>th</sup>.

## ARRIVALS

- Frank Berra (Rev) and his wife, Barb, are the proud grandparents of a baby girl, Ellen Rose Berra, born on September 9, 2002, and weighing 8 lbs. and 11 oz.
- Tony Bieg (PW) and his wife, Jenny, on their birth of their son Anthony on September 9, 2002.
- Congratulations to Rita Casey (Rev) upon the birth of her new grandson, Isaac, born on November 7, 2002 and weighing 8 lbs. and 7 oz.
- Congratulations to Sharen Crowder (Rev) and her husband upon the birth of their new daughter, Abigail Mae, born on October 15, 2002, and weighing 6 lbs. and 6 oz.
- Joe Dueker (Pros Atty) and his wife, Jane, welcome a daughter, Vivian Martha.
- Ed Earll (PW) and his wife, Judy, on becoming first time grandparents to grandson Bradon born on November 20, 2002.
- Chris Falk (PW) and his wife, Laura, welcomed their son William Thomas on November 11, 2002.
- Chris Fialka (Admin) and his wife, Sandy, had a baby boy, Curtis Matthew, on October 3.
- Jim Hannon (PW) and his wife, Keri, on the birth of their twin boys – Jack & Ethan on September 5, 2002.
- Eve Kolinski on September 28, 2002.
- Velma Parker (Rev) is the very proud grandmother of triplets: Jasean, Jajuan and Johnathan.
- Michael Mantia (Sophia Rose Mantia) (DHS).
- Susan Peterson (Pros Atty) and her husband, Christopher had a son, Nicholas James.

*Arrivals continue on Page 4*



## Puzzler Winner - Don Akbridge

"What are the chances of that?" Don asked when presented with his prize. 1 in 15! Don, along with 14 other entrants, had all ten puzzlers answered correctly. He was randomly drawn from the group and was pleased to have been selected. He and his wife, Jennifer, look forward to reading the *Connection* and entering the contests. He freely admits she is responsible for "some of the answers [he] couldn't get." Don won a gift certificate to a popular chain restaurant and plans to give the certificate to his wife "as a gift from [him]." She's sure to be pleased by his thoughtfulness! Don was happy to see the balloons because his soon-to-be three-year-old daughter, Katie, loves them. Congratulations to Don and to all employees who guessed all ten puzzlers correctly! See page 8 for the correct answers.

John Aughinbaugh (DOH)  
 Debbie DeMatteis (Admin)  
 Chris Falk (PW)  
 Denese Gaines (Cty Cnslr)  
 Cindy Hermes (Rev)

Dana Hutchings (Admin)  
 Kathleen Jaycox (Admin)  
 Gloria Lemp (H&T)  
 Lisa Lineback (Rev)  
 Susan Lukwago (DOH)

Phil Minden (PIng)  
 Cindy Mohrhard (Fam Ct)  
 Diana Vogelsang (Rev)  
 Myesha Walker (H&T)

**Employment  
Anniversaries**

5 years

- Marilyn Behle (P&R)
- Carol Bible (Rev)
- Molly Butterworth (P&R)
- Mary Cranor (P&R)
- Sharen Crowder (Rev)
- Judith Davis (Rev)
- William Finley (PW)
- Jeanne Fitzgerald (JS)
- Tom Fleischmann (PW)
- William Franklin (JS)
- Bob Gerber (PW)
- Patricia Gray (JS)
- Darne Guest (JS)
- Johnathan Hatcher (PW)
- Bill Hawn (JS)
- Laurie Herzog (Rev)
- Chad Hill (P&R)
- Brad Hubbard (JS)
- Paul Irwin (P&R)
- Willia Jackson (JS)
- Pam Jackson (Rev)
- Walter Jones (Plng)
- Doreen Kreutz (P&R)
- Susan Lane (JS)
- Phillip Mc Intosh (JS)
- Andy Miller (P&R)
- Yvonne Monroe (Rev)
- Ronald Phillips (Rev)
- Kathy Pusateri (Rev)
- Elizabeth Richardson (Rev)
- Debra Schaefer (P&R)
- Linda Schueller (Rev)
- Pat Silver (Rev)
- Elizabeth Thoene (Rev)
- Rita Tinsley (Rev)

- Chrisie Williams (JS)
- Mia Williams (Rev)
- Tim Wobbe (P&R)

10 years

- Joseph Bolte (Rev)
- Yvette Brauner (Rev)
- Linda Cendroski (Rev)
- Wilma Chestnut-House (P&R)
- Shirley Clifton (Rev)
- Linda Edison (Rev)
- Susan Green (Rev)
- Yvette Harris (JS)
- Cedric Kelly (JS)
- Sarah Sturgis (Rev)
- Steve Sutherlin (JS)

15 years

- Kathy Allred (JS)
- Kenneth Arnold (JS)
- Carol Baca (Rev)
- Robert Bruns (Rev)
- William Coatney (Rev)
- Jesse Francis (P&R)
- Greg Freivogel (P&R)
- Bertha Grady (Rev)
- Susan Havener (Rev)



- Mary Losing (Rev)
- Chris Matthews (Rev)
- Mike McGinnity (P&R)
- Mike McKee (P&R)
- JoAnn Reber (Rev)
- Joe Ridings (P&R)
- Jesse Salas (P&R)
- Karen Sanchez (JS)
- Annetta Strickland (Rev)
- Susan Tharp (Rev)
- Diana Vogelsang (Rev)

20 years

- Stephen Adams (P&R)
- Cedric Barnes (JS)
- Freda Becton (Rev)
- Karen Bugnitz (Rev)
- Mary Ekern (Rev)
- Dennis Geivett (Rev)
- Cindy Hermes (Rev)
- Harry Komar (Rev)
- Tim Lee (Rev)
- Shelby Locke (Rev)
- Dave Mades (P&R)
- Adam McGraw (P&R)
- Valinda McPhee (P&R)
- Barbara Milzark (P&R)
- Ken Peters (P&R)

- Dean Ponticello (P&R)
- Todd Tate (P&R)
- Paula Taylor (Rev)
- Lisa Viola (Rev)
- Judith Whitson (Rev)

25 years

- Mike Bailey (P&R)
- Rosalyn Davis (JS)
- Clark Heard (Rev)
- Jim Henley (P&R)
- Marta Johanningmeier (Rev)
- Gregory Jones (JS)
- Delores Jones (JS)
- Josephine Marino-Emde (Rev)
- Phil Muehlheausler (Rev)
- Tim Putnam (Plng)
- John Rowane (P&R)
- Bob Schweitzer (P&R)
- Dan Torpea (P&R)
- Gary White (Rev)

30 years

- Robert Flesch (JS)
- Terry Klein (P&R)
- Rich Robison (Rev)
- Dave Ruzicka (P&R)
- Bob Schermann (P&R)

35 years

- Daniel Friganza (Rev)
- Marian McCreary (Admin)
- Dave Reynolds (P&R)

40 years

- Ken Bratch (P&R)

**MORE! ARRIVALS**

- Kathleen Schwerb (H&T) and her husband, Walter, welcomed 6 lbs. 8 oz. grandchild Jordan.
- Judie Wilfong (Rev) and Larry Wilfong (Rev) are the proud grandparents of a new grandson, Liam Erin Wilfong, born on October 10, 2002 and weighing 9 lbs. and 10 oz.
- Sarah Spiess, (Daniel Spiess) (DHS).
- A fourth grandchild for Carolyn Tindle (Rev)! His name is Jaylen Anthony Tindle, and he was born on October 29, 2002, and weighed 5 pounds and 8 ounces.
- Congratulations to Andrea Mingo (PW) on the birth of her daughter, Amira, born on September 29, 2002.



**RETIREMENT**

- Norris R. Acker (Rev) returned from retirement in December 2001 to serve as Director of Revenue. Mr. Acker retired again on October 1, 2002. Robert H. Peterson has been serving as Acting Director of Revenue since his departure.
  - Ron Brown (JS) retired after 16 years.
  - Bonnie Cook (Admin) retired after 13 years.
  - Donald Lewis (DHS) retired after 9 years.

**PROMOTIONS**

- Darlene Braun (Pros Atty) – Legal Secretary
- Peter Konradi (PW) - Structural Foreman
- Randall Martin (PW) - Structural Specialist
- Missy Moriarty (PW) - Plumbing Lead Inspector
- Gwendolyn Neals (DHS) - Supervisor, Social Work
- John Noel (DHS) - Social Worker
- Gary Nichols (PW) - Building System Specialist



- Robert Bruns (Rev) and Sandy Youtzy (Rev) have received their Missouri State General Appraisal Certification.
- Connie Ciaramitaro (Rev) received the ICMA certificate.
- Dan Dreisewerd (H&T), Division of Design, and Earl Ray, Division of Operations, each recently passed the tough Professional Traffic Operations Engineer exam.
- Barbara Ann Hughes (Fam Ct) is participating in the Missouri Municipal Leadership Program offered by the Missouri Municipal League at the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs in Columbia, Missouri.
- Jason Jaggi (PIng) received an award from the Castle Point Community Association for his vision, dedication, leadership and support which has been essential in the planning, development and revitalization of Castle Point.
- Nigeria King (PW) on completing her Associates Degree in Electrical Technology from Vatterott College.
- Montoy Kellum (PW) on completing his Associates Degree in Electrical Technology from Vatterott College.

- Marina Klebanov (PW), Plan Review, on passing the Mechanical Professional Engineer Exam. She is now a registered Mechanical PE.
- Melisa McLean's (PIng) ice hockey

team took the silver medal in a tournament in Minnesota on November 24, 2002.

- Phil Minden (PIng) completed the Chicago marathon on October 13, 2002 coming in at 3:53. Bravo!
- Phil Muehlheausler (Rev) received his Missouri State Real Estate Appraisal Certification.
- Jim Ryan (Rev) has completed the classes to receive the ESDP certificate.
- Mike Walsh (PW), Assistant Chief – Grading Inspections, on receiving his ICMA on October 9, 2002.
- Kurt Zimmerman (PW) on successfully completing the BOCA Mechanical Plan Reviewer Exam.



Phil's celebration

### Dr. Krasnoff Retires

Dr. Alan Krasnoff, PHD (JS) began his career with Justice Services in 1978. He was hired on a Federal Grant and served first at the Adult Correctional Institution in Chesterfield. At the time, he was also a professor of psychology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. From 1978-1990 he supervised psychology students that worked 30 hours per week,



while he himself worked 10. He worked not only at ACI, the medium security facility, but also in the maximum and minimum security facilities. In 1990, Dr. K (as he is affectionately known) retired from UMSL. From 1991 on he worked full time for Justice Services. His career here spanned 24 years, and his smile, wit, and calm demeanor will all be sorely missed. Congratulations and Best of Luck, Dr. K! From the staff of Justice Services.

## Karen Bowen, Raggedy Ann and Andy *from page 1*

mess. Raggedy Ann always wears bloomers that extend below her knees, a dress, a pinafore, and black fabric shoes sewn into the doll's legs. You can tell how old a doll is by the print of the dress and her face. Andy always wears a sailor hat, pants with buttons, and a shirt with a bow around his neck.



Karen's wall display

in Arcola, Illinois, the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. People attending the festival come dressed as Raggedy Ann or Andy. Arcola, a town about three hours from St. Louis,

### The Event

Each year a Raggedy Ann and Andy Festival takes place

is the home of Johnny Gruelle, the creator of the dolls. His daughter, Marcella, was dying and the story goes that he pulled this old rag doll out of their attic that his mother had made years before. He made up the Raggedy Ann Doll and then started writing books about Raggedy Ann and her friends, such as Andy and the Blue Horse, to cheer her up. After Marcella died, the family continued to make the dolls to be sold. The dolls became so popular the family had to hire people and start its own manufacturing company. The Volland Company was the very first company to manufacture the dolls in the early 1900s. They looked a bit different from the ones we see today. Over the years the rights to the dolls were legally questioned. One company tried to make the dolls and they were sued. To this day the Gruelle family oversees what goes on in the museum in Arcola. Any changes to the dolls have to be approved by the Gruelle family. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Raggedy Ann was held this past May.

Karen's Raggedy Ann and Andy collection not only includes the rag dolls, but also candles, a lunch box, lamps, banks, books, and afghans. Karen even made curtains out of old Raggedy Ann fabric for her display room. You could say Karen is really "dolloed" up!



# Department Notes



- At a ceremony on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the **Administration** Building will be renamed the Lawrence K. Roos County Government Building. The renaming honors retired county supervisor Lawrence K. Roos who oversaw the building's construction and opening in 1971. Roos served for 12 years as County Supervisor (now called County Executive) and went on to serve as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and Interim Chancellor of St. Louis Community College.
- Dr. Marilyn L. Robinson (HS), Director of **Human Services**, announced that Homeless Services will become a separate division within DHS, under the direction of Dana McAuliffe, Ph.D., effective January 1, 2003. The Division of Homeless Services will continue to focus its efforts of prevention, self-sufficiency and emergency shelter for over 3,000 men, women and children served in these programs each year. This reorganization will assure optimal program balance and quality, as well as position the Department of Human Services for grant-driven program growth in the future.
- The Department of **Human Services'** Office of Family and Community Services County Older Resident Programs (CORP) offers FREE assistance for Saint Louis County residents who are 60 years and older, with income of \$27,000 or less (includes Social Security). Help with federal, state, Missouri Property Tax Rebate (MO-PTC or "circuit breaker"), and Missouri SenioRX forms will be available from trained staff and volunteers at many sites throughout Saint Louis County. Assistance will be given by appointment only. Appointments are scheduled by calling 615-7447 (TTY 615-7457) or 615-4037 (TTY 615-4001)
- The Department of **Justice Services** will receive funding from the State Department of Mental Health in conjunction with a Targeted Capacity Expansion Grant for a Jail Diversion Program. This federal grant was funded through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). The grant was applied for with the support of the Department of Justice Services, the County Counselor's office, St. Louis University School of Social Service, BJC Behavioral Health and the St. Louis County Municipal Courts. The purpose of this grant will be to identify persons with serious mental illness on the confined municipal court docket and to recommend to the court diversion of these persons to community mental health treatment. The diversion and treatment of these persons will hopefully break the continuing cycle of arrest, court appearances and incarceration for individuals with serious mental health problems.
- The **Family Court** of St. Louis County, Mentor Program would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the following County employees who volunteer their personal time as Mentors for court involved youth. John "Jack" Hanewinkel (P&R) works for County Parks and Recreation at Faust Park and began mentoring in July 2002. Pam McKeage (Cty Cnslr) works as an Administrative Assistant in the County Counselor's Office and began volunteering with the Mentor Program in June 2000. Thank you for making a difference in our community. Your dedication is appreciated.
- In September, the Department of **Highways & Traffic** held its Third Annual "Snow and Equipment 'Roadeo'" at Queeny Park. A total of 94 people competed in a trio of exercises designed to test heavy equipment operators' physical and mental acumen on the back hoe, snow plow and front end loader. This year, for the first time since the event's inception, the "Roadeo" was opened to non-Highways and Traffic personnel. Workers from the Department of **Parks and Recreation** and the cities of Maryland Heights and Chesterfield all competed on the rigorous obstacle courses and written tests.  
Highways personnel finished in the top three of each event.  
Snow plow exercise: 1st - Brian Timmermeier (H&T), 2nd - Jim Schaffer (H&T), 3rd - Jason Murray (H&T)  
Front end loader competition: 1st - Rich McGray (H&T), 2nd - Roy Blum (H&T), 3rd - Jason Murray (H&T)  
Back hoe challenge: 1st - Al Rapp (H&T), 2nd - Mike Wilds (H&T), 3rd - Brian Donovan (H&T)  
The popular 'Roadeo' was introduced to St. Louis County by Director Mike Dooley, and plays an important role in enhancing workers' knowledge of safety procedures, polishing operational skills and building morale. Highways personnel Mary Martin and Larry Nagel were instrumental in planning this year's event, and received letters of thanks for their many hours of hard work.
- On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Tom Lagana, professional speaker and co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul* and *Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul*, addressed the Choices in-house drug and alcohol program for men and women at the St. Louis County **Justice Center**. Tom also works with incarcerated inmates and their families. Tom shared his personal reason for becoming a volunteer in a State Prison in Wilmington, Delaware. Recognizing the need to improve his public speaking skills, this professional engineer turned to Toastmasters International. In 1992, two inmates inspired Tom to form a prison group, and ten years later the national award-winning Walking Tall Club continues to flourish. While working on a special project for the warden in 1997, Tom visited a bookstore in search of motivational resources for the inmates to read. After seeing books similar to the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series he began his own book of touching stories for inmates.

# Employee Voices

This issue, we're including sample recipes from our 32-page *Connection* Cookie Cookbook. The booklet costs just \$3.00 with all proceeds donated to our Adopt-A Family Holiday Project. This unique cookbook represents the County's favorite cookies, includes over 55 recipes from over 35 employees and makes a great and inexpensive stocking stuffer. Contact Kathy Eller at 615-5430 to place your order.

## Jeweled Cookie Slices

Submitted by: Sue Reifschneider (wife of Mike)  
Department: Police

- 1/3 cup butter (no substitutes), melted
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup chopped candied pineapple or red and green candied cherries
- 2 tablespoons chopped blanched almonds
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/8 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg



In a mixing bowl, beat butter and sugars. Add egg and vanilla; mix well. Stir in pineapple and almonds. Combine dry ingredients; add to butter mixture. Spread evenly into a foil-lined 8x4x2-inch loaf pan. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Invert dough onto a cutting board; remove foil. Cut into 1/4-inch slices; place on greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on wire racks.

Yield: about 2 1/2 dozen.

## Goopy Butter Cookies

Submitted by: Lisa Lineback, Bill Hawn, Peggy LaJeuness & Terry McKean  
Department: Revenue, Justice Services, Planning & Highways & Traffic

- Ingredients:
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
  - 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
  - 1 egg
  - 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - 1 (2-layer) package butter-recipe yellow cake mix
  - 1 to 2 cups confectioners' sugar



Beat the butter, cream cheese, egg and vanilla in a mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Stir in the dry cake mix. Chill, covered, for 30 minutes.

Drop the dough by teaspoonfuls into a bowl of confectioners' sugar and roll into balls. Arrange on cookie sheets lightly coated with nonstick cooking spray. Bake at 350 degrees for 12 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on wire racks.

Makes 3 dozen.

## Money-Saving Ideas for Holiday Gifts

By Paula Teabeau

Here are some great ideas for holiday gifts on a budget:

- I told relatives and friends to send me letters describing why my mom is so special. Then I bound them together in a booklet called "What We Love About Mom."
- For budget gift-wrapping, work a sprig of pine or holly from your own backyard into the ribbon.
- For small children, put together "Dress-Up Kits." You can create these by shopping at garage sales or second hand shops. Look for women's ball gowns and costume jewelry or fedora hats and trench coats.
- Put together several stocking stuffers as a gift. Several outlets, online auctions and sample sales include discontinued designer items like cashmere gloves, silk scarves and name-brand ties. Or consider scented candles and holiday CDs – they always please!
- Create your own gift certificates, offering your time and talent in such areas as babysitting, chauffeuring, gardening, running errands, organizing or computer lessons.

# What do you think?

Now that the *Connection* has been in print for a full year, we'd like to know what you think about it. Please take a few moments to answer the questions below, detach this section and send in your thoughts by January 6th. Thanks for your help!

- 1- Strongly Agree
- 2 - Agree
- 3- Neutral
- 4 - Disagree
- 5- Strongly Disagree

I always read the *Connection* from cover to cover ..... 1 2 3 4 5

The *Connection* needs more informational and educational features ..... 1 2 3 4 5

I like to know about other County employees and what they are doing ..... 1 2 3 4 5

The *Connection* is too long ..... 1 2 3 4 5

The *Connection* is fun to read ..... 1 2 3 4 5

The *Connection* needs more pictures ..... 1 2 3 4 5

I like to enter contests ..... 1 2 3 4 5

I only read articles about my department ..... 1 2 3 4 5

I like to see my coworkers' names / photos .. 1 2 3 4 5

I like to keep up to date on department achievements ..... 1 2 3 4 5

I feel more connected to other County employees after reading the *Connection* ..... 1 2 3 4 5

What features do you like the best? Please rank from 1 (your favorite) to 7 (your least favorite).

- \_\_\_ In the Spotlight
- \_\_\_ Your County Government
- \_\_\_ This & That
- \_\_\_ Congratulations
- \_\_\_ Department Notes
- \_\_\_ Employee Voices
- \_\_\_ Wordsearch, Brain Teasers, Puzzlers

What topics would you like to read about?  
\_\_\_\_\_

What coworkers should we interview for the "In the Spotlight" article? What is their hobby, special interest or skill?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Anything else we should know?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join the staff of the *Connection*?  
Yes    No

Name (optional):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Department (optional):  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Puzzlers Solutions

T  
S U  
I H  
T S  
*Sit down and shut up*

FA TH  
*Blind Faith*

AMEMADERICA  
*Made in America*

XQQME  
*Excuse Me*

PAID

I AM

WORKED  
*I am under paid and over worked*

SEMGEAS  
*Mixed message*

B    B  
U    U  
R    R  
N    N  
*Side burns*

SGEG  
*Scrambled eggs*

WARE  
MHOLEY  
*Hole in my underwear*

JJJOOOHHHNNSSS  
*Long Johns*

For more information or to make a contribution, contact:

*Kathy Eller, Editor*  
314-615-5430  
[keller@stlouisco.com](mailto:keller@stlouisco.com)

### Winter Issue Contributors

- Cindy Davies*
- Johnita Grimm*
- Sue Hendricks*
- Mary Holzum*
- TeeJay Jeademann*
- Margie Lardner*
- Gail Ottolino*
- Sharon Remaklus*
- Tricia Rodgers*
- Karen Sensabaugh*
- Myesha Walker*
- David Wrone*

