

THE COUNTY CONNECTION

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

Winter 2005

Can't get enough of The County Connection?

Every issue, there are some submission materials that don't make it to the final printed copy. Here is that material from the Winter Issue. Enjoy!

MORE Department Notes

Police

Father **LEO SPEZIA** was recently selected to win the St. Louis Columbus Day Corporation's special award. The award is not given every year and the recipient must have shown dedicated service and longevity to the Italian-American community. Besides being a chaplain for the St. Louis County Police, Missouri Highway Patrol and municipalities throughout St. Louis County, he has founded various chaplaincy departments and trained over 100 chaplains for the FBI and the State of Missouri.

Highways & Traffic / Public Works

TOM BOEDEKER, a Highways and Traffic signals supervisor, was named October's Employee of the Month for inventing a device that allows the Department to video-tape traffic patterns in hard-to-reach locations. Tom designed and built a cabinet and VCR/camera system that can be fixed to the top of a temporary mast arm – providing a flexible, far-reaching eye capable of observing unique 'big picture' events like golf tournaments and the County Fair & Air Show. Most of the apparatus was constructed from spare parts in the Traffic Operations Center.

Human Services

Our Veterans Services Program has planned and implemented a Holiday Dinner for Homeless Veterans since 1992. This program is designed to provide a healthy holiday meal, clothing, and personal hygiene kits to 100 homeless vets. Volunteers deep fry turkeys and prepare a complete home cooked meal, transportation is provided from area shelters, a band donates their time for entertainment, and volunteers spend the afternoon trying to bring a little holiday cheer to veterans who may not have anywhere else to turn during the holidays.

REVENUE

RUTHANN DENOYER's grandson, Joey, has safely returned from Iraq.

An Unforgettable Night Lydia Orso (Revenue)

The Albert Pujols Family Foundation held a celebrity golf tournament last June and I was asked to be a guest speaker at the dinner that evening. During the tournament, I helped at the lunch buffet for the golfers. I even had my picture taken with Tony La Russa!



Before we had dinner I was asked to present a gift from the Down Syndrome Association to Albert and Deidre along with some of the children who have Down Syndrome. They both were very moved and touched.

After the dinner, I spoke to everyone about my life and I told them how much I love working in the mailroom in the Recorder of Deeds department. I told them about the friendships I have developed at work. After my presentation, there was a live auction where they auctioned off a base signed by the whole Cardinal team. Albert had the highest bid and won the base. After he received the base, he stood up and announced in front of everyone that he was so moved and touched with my presentation that he turned the base over to me! My first reaction was shock. I was completely surprised! I didn't know what to say, I was speechless. I felt so touched, blessed and honored because it meant so much to me and it still does! During the announcement, I actually cried, it really made my day.

After the event and I returned home, it hit me all at once. I was so completely happy and so touched that I truly felt tears in my eyes. It was definitely the highlight of the whole day, a day I will never forget.