

ESA Employee of the Year

The Annual Excellence in Service Award winner is
TIMOTHY YOUNG
Alum Creek Distribution

Nominated by his peers with the most nominations ever, Mr. Young has been selected as the ESA "Employee of the Year" for 2000 by Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director, and the ESA committee. The Lt. Governor presented the award to Mr. Young during a ceremony on Thursday, February 22, 2001, at the Alum Creek Facility.

In her remarks, O'Connor said, "Employees like Tim Young and the exemplary service he exhibits everyday he reports to work serves as an example for all of us to emulate.

"In addition, Mr. Young has been instrumental in getting materials, paperwork and finished products delivered between the Alum Creek Facility and the Shipley Building. Mr. Young's dependability and initiative are the keys to maintaining communication and production between the facilities.

"An employee since June 1997, Tim Young works at Alum Creek Distribution and has been called 'more dependable than Federal Express'."

Other employees chosen for recognition over the past quarters were:

First Quarter

Richard Cologie, INV Unit
Suann Cook, INV Unit
Timothy Young, BMV
Stephen Rice, OTIS

Second Quarter

Kathleen Nelson, EMA
Jill Cochran, ADM
Dean Gatton, ADM

Third Quarter

Elizabeth Weaver, BMV
Charlie Ireland, BMV
Kelli Blackwell, EMA

Fourth Quarter

Julie Faulconer & Peggy Barber, BMV
Duke Hobson, BMV
Jerry Barber, INV Unit
Amanda Bentley, ADM



Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director, presents the ESA "Employee of the Year" award to Tim Young at the Alum Creek Facility.

Please continue to submit your nominations for employees displaying exemplary work performances. Excellence in Service forms can be obtained from the system template DPS 0026 or Lt. Sue Rance-Locke in the training office on the 3rd floor.

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If you have upcoming events or information that you would like to see in the next issue of *Public Safety News*, send it to Lynne McBee, Office of Communications, Shipley Bldg., 4th floor, or via e-mail at lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

IT'S ABOUT SAFETY

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EMA Plans Dry Run

The Emergency Management Agency (EMA) division is always serving Ohio residents, but in April, EMA will focus on the 62,000 residents of Ottawa County who live within 10 miles of the Davis-Besse nuclear power plant.

Every two years, the owners of the three nuclear power plants that are either within or very close to Ohio's borders submit themselves to a federally evaluated drill. Passage of that drill, which always involves a simulated accident at the respective plant, is essential to the renewal of the utility company's plant operating license.

This month, the state EMA and "players" from a dozen other state and federal government agencies will participate in a two-day "dry run" of the May 22-23 graded Davis-Besse exercise. In this April tune-up for next month's drill, state and federal agencies will be required to respond to and recover from simulated events at the nuclear power plant. A key player in the exercise is a group of local county agencies – EMA, fire, police, etc. – along with simulated news media at periodic news briefings.

This month's "dry run" and next month's graded exercise will feature full federal participation, including radiation monitoring personnel from the U.S. Department of Energy and health physics experts from a variety of other federal agencies. When the simulated "alert" is triggered, the EMA's operations center on S.R. 161 will be activated, and emergency response coordinators from many state agencies – health, EPA, the PUCO, Agriculture, the Adjutant General, the Highway Patrol to name a few – will dispatch their EMA specialists to the EOC. While there, they will respond to a simulated series of events at the Davis-Besse plant and correspondingly coordinate state government's response to that event with local government efforts.

Next year, similar drills are scheduled for the Perry Plant east of Cleveland and the Beaver Valley power plant in western Pennsylvania near Pittsburgh, just a few miles from Columbiana County.

• **BMV Adds Two More Services to OPLATES.com**

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) has added two more services to its online vehicle registration site, **OPLATES.com**. Ohio motorists can update their addresses, as well as purchase replacement registrations, stickers and plates online.

"Those Ohioans who have used **OPLATES** for vehicle renewals have expressed ideas they would like the BMV to implement, including address changes and purchasing replacements," said Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS). "This is an example of our ongoing efforts to maximize the services available through **OPLATES**."

Motorists who have moved can now log onto www.OPLATES.com and change their address prior to renewing their vehicle registration. Previously, if a person's current address was not on file with the BMV, that person could not register through **OPLATES**. Ohioans who do not need to renew their vehicle registration may also use this service to update their address. There is no charge for this service.

Ohioans whose registrations, stickers or plates are lost, stolen or damaged may also use **OPLATES.com** to order duplicates. To order duplicates, a person needs the last four numbers of his or her social security number and the plate number. Motorists can use MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover to pay for the purchase. The transaction includes a \$2.25 deputy registrar fee, as well as fees set forth by the Ohio Revised Code.

The BMV began testing **OPLATES** in October and officially announced the service in December. Since testing began, more than 65,000 registrations have been renewed through the online site and the touch-tone telephone system.



Q-MATIC Traffic Management System

In case you haven't visited the Customer Service Centers in the Shipley Building and at Alum Creek, you should stop by and look at the Q-Matic system. The Q-Matic system is a customer traffic management tool that helps process customers through the center. The system allows the Customer Service Centers to increase productivity while providing friendly and efficient environment for their customers. The system allows the Customer Service Centers to manage or sequence the calling of customers to certain windows for particular types of service desired.

Q-Matic utilizes a video and (pleasant) voice system to direct customers. Wait times, transaction numbers and other statistics are monitored and reviewed to help maximize customer service and reduce wait times.



GDL a Success

A report released in February by Ohio Public Safety evaluates, for the first time, the progress of Ohio's Graduated Driver License (GDL) law. Report researchers estimate the law has saved 30 lives since being enacted in 1998.

"The law was designed to improve the skills of novice drivers by requiring additional training and experience," said Lt. Governor Maureen O'Connor, Director, Ohio Public Safety. "According to this preliminary report, fewer 16- and 17-year-olds licensed under the new Graduated Driver License law were involved in fatal crashes, and fewer were involved in crashes involving alcohol use."

Stricter GDL suspension guidelines directly resulted in the sharp increase of teens who temporarily lost their driving privileges. During the last two years, the driver license suspension rate of young drivers increased by 261 percent. GDL set stricter punishments for traffic violations. In addition, GDL gives courts the ability to suspend licenses on non-traffic related issues, such as chronic truancy.

Ohio's GDL law, modeled after the standard developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, includes the following components:

- ☞ A curfew for driver license holders under age seventeen, unless accompanied by a parent or guardian;
- ☞ 24 hours of classroom instruction;
- ☞ Eight hours of behind-the-wheel training with a certified instructor;
- ☞ 50 hours of driving time with a parent or guardian;
- ☞ A limit to the number of occupants permitted to drive with novice drivers; and
- ☞ Requirement to wear safety belts.

The GDL law, which went into effect on January 1, 1998, was prompted by statistics that showed that although teens constituted a small percentage of Ohio's driving population, they represented a disproportionately high rate of drivers involved in traffic crashes.



Computer Database Upgraded

The Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) upgrades to Ohio's 25-year-old driver license computer database is nearly complete. The upgrade, which has been five years in design and implementation, is designed to allow law enforcement agencies and courts easier and quicker access to traffic violation histories, suspensions and license status. The \$6.4 million upgrade went into effect on December 3, 2000.

Law enforcement agencies, which provided input for the new system design, have complained in the past that suspension information, particularly recent court suspensions, were not readily accessible or accurate.

"This new system should significantly reduce the possibility of errors. We acknowledge there have been past problems, and that is why we have taken this very positive step," said Frank Caltrider, Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

The BMV maintains over 8 million driving records and 11 million vehicle registrations.

MDA's Most Wanted

It was bars but no handcuffs for Maria Clark, Administrative Assistant to Registrar of Motor Vehicles Franklin Caltrider. As part of the February 2001 Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) February 1, 2001 "lock up," Clark was jailed and bail set at \$1,500. The money was a contribution goal she needed to reach before she could be freed from her lock-up.

The MDA Lock-Up is a spirited event where prominent, community-minded individuals come together to raise money for "Jerry's Kids." These kind-hearted people donate their time and energy to help in the fight against neuromuscular disease by asking for donations to raise bail. Those "locked up" call friends, neighbors, relatives and business associates to help them raise bail during the hour they have been selected for lock-up.

Other Ohio Public Safety employees that participated in this fundraiser for MDA include Laura Ludwig Tiberi, Executive Director, EMS, and Rebecca Wharton, Constituent Liaison in the Registrar's office.



Maria Clark in the "lock up."

Salute to Ohio

Proud to be a Buckeye

WHAT'S THE OHIO BURGEE?

As Ohio's Bicentennial Year approaches in 2003, there are many interesting Ohio facts you may or may not recall from taking Ohio history in school. One such bit of information is about the history of the Ohio flag.

Ohio's official flag was adopted by an Act of the Ohio Legislature on May 9, 1902. Documents filed with the Secretary of State for safekeeping reveal that the Ohio flag was displayed a year earlier than its adoption. The first flag was designed for use at the Ohio Building at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York.

The Ohio burgee, as the swallow-tailed design is properly called, was drawn to minute engineering scale by John Eisenmann, architect and designer for the Ohio State Pan-American Exposition Commission. U.S. Patent Design No. 34,810 was issued to Mr. Eisenmann, who assigned it to the state of Ohio.

The legislation regarding the flag was introduced by William S. McKinnon of Ashtabula County, who was Speaker of the House and later served as Treasurer of State. A member of the Pan-American Exposition Commission a year earlier, he played a part in the flag's use at the exposition where Ohio's President William McKinley lost his life from an assassin's bullet in September of 1901.

It is safe to assume that President McKinley, former Ohio Governor, had pridefully inspected the flag as he viewed the Ohio exhibit at the Exposition where he had gone to speak that fatal day. And it is significant that another Ohioan, who was destined to later become President—Warren G.

Harding— was a member of the Ohio Senate at the time the flag legislation was passed. In the Ohio Senate was Nicholas Longworth, for many years Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, who married Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President and Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt. Lewis C. Laylin, of Huron, was Secretary of State in 1902, when the flag documents were filed.

The Ohio burgee has three red and two white horizontal stripes. At its staff end, in a blue triangular field whose apex is at the center of the middle red stripe, are seventeen white, five-pointed stars, grouped around a red disc superimposed upon a white O.

John Eisenmann, designer of the flag, explained its symbolism more aptly: "The triangles formed by the main lines of the flag represent the hills and valleys as typified in the state seal and the stripes represent the roads and waterways. The stars, indicating the thirteen original states of the Union, are grouped about the circle which represents the Northwest Territory, and that Ohio was the seventeenth state admitted into the Union is shown by adding four more stars. The white circle with its red center not only represents the initial letter of Ohio but is suggestive of its being the Buckeye State."



The PSNEWS Roving Reporter

Q What is your favorite TV commercial and why?

A "Right now it is the Canon commercial where the toner is running out and the guy keeps asking for Phyllis everytime someone passes by the copy room." Phyllis Holloway, Purchasing

A "I am a big NBA fan, so my favorite commercial out right now is the Nike, usually shown on Sunday afternoon during the NBA games, that displays the dribbling talents of several players such as Jason Williams, Kevin Garnett and Vince Carter. I also like the 'NBA, I love this game,' commercials.

My second favorite is the Federal Express Commercials that show the many potential catastrophes that happen if you get substandard service from an overnight carrier." Holly Mitchell, Project Management, Admin.

A "I would say that my favorite commercial would be the Bob Dole and the Pepsi 'Little Blue Friend' commercial. I like it because it's funny." Don Goodman, Inserter Unit, ACF

A "I like the commercial from monsterjob.com where they interview the children about what they want to be when they grow up." Carol Waugh, HRM

A "I am not a good person to ask this as I watch very little TV, so see very few commercials. I can't really say I have any favorite. The least favorite would be some of the Gap (I think) commercials that don't seem to have any relevance to a product. Maybe it is just that I am too old to understand them." Walter Callahan, OTIS Administrator

QUALITY QUOTE

"Win/Win is a belief in the Third Alternative. It's not your way or my way; it's a better way, a higher way."

- Stephen R. Covey