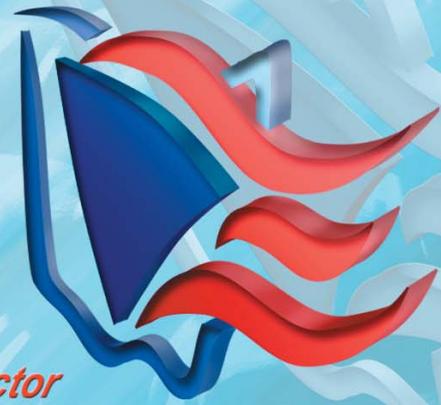


# PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



*Bob Taft, Governor*

*Kenneth L. Morckel, Director*

## Homeland Security Strides Touted



**H**omeland Security held several events to praise the strides made throughout Ohio in educating first responders, buying needed equipment and preparing communities to be prepared in case of a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

Events were held in Toledo, Kettering, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton and Willoughby where the featured speaker was ODPS Director Ken Morckel. He spoke to first responders, law enforcement, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Buckeye State Sheriff's Association, fire chiefs, State of Ohio Security Task Force members, EMA county advisory teams and directors and legislators.

Morckel spoke about people working towards creating an Ohio that is more prepared and aware. He praised the county advisory committees for working "tirelessly to protect the citizens of their county and region with the homeland security dollars allotted to them."

Although he was unable to attend, Gov. Bob Taft commended local preparedness and prevention efforts. "Every day, first responders are receiving training and equipment as a result of the partnership between the state and federal government and local agencies," said Taft. "These collaborative efforts send a clear message that Ohio is better prepared than ever before."

Some of the funding successes include:

- Training law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians to use Personal Protective Equipment. PPE is designed to safeguard personnel in the event of a chemical or biological incident.
- Creating urban search and rescue teams
- Setting aside funds for an interoperability communications system that would allow federal, state and local officials to communicate via radio, no matter what type of equipment the agency has
- Working on water supply projects
- Purchasing hazardous material trucks and bomb and radiation equipment

**November 2004**

### HEADLINES

- Joe Banicki Honored by Business First
- OhioSafe Commute Program Expands to Reduce Injuries and Fatalities
- School Bus Safety
- Karen Kadar Receives 2004 Zenith Award
- Malabar Farm Agroterrorism Exercise
- Electronic Sign-In Assists Reinstatement Offices
- Making Daylight Savings Time Safe for Kids
- Roving Reporter
- Calling all Trivia Buffs
- Who Is It?

Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43223



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](mailto:lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us)

*Editor: Lynne McBee*

*Layout & Design: Jason Owens*

## OhioSafe Commute Program Expands to Reduce Injuries and Fatalities



### Joe Banicki Honored by Business First

Joe Banicki, currently the business manager/grants administrator for the Governor's Highway Safety Office, was nominated by former coworkers at The Ohio State University and was one of the 40 people under the age of 40 to be a recipient of the "Top 40 People Under the Age of 40" award by Business First. A recognition ceremony took place at the Westin Hotel on September 23, 2004.



Joe Banicki

The award is based on professional and community service accomplishments over the past few years.

Some of his accomplishments include:

- From 1999 to 2002, he was the Executive Director of Keep Columbus Beautiful — a community improvement organization affiliated with the City of Columbus. He managed the 15th largest Keep America Beautiful program in the country and generated a cost/benefit ratio of \$5.06 for every \$1 spent on the program.
- He directed the annual recruitment and recognition of 14,000 Columbus volunteers; increased beautification projects by 32 percent and educational presentations by 79 percent; and solicited \$139,000 in new corporate partnerships within one year.
- While working as the Project Manager for the Ohio Department of Development, he created the concept of a student booklet for 1-800-BUCKEYE. He compiled information about Ohio, designed a booklet titled Ohio: The Buckeye State, and saved \$39,000 in annual printing and mailing costs. His cost-saving idea earned him an Innovation Ohio Award from Governor Voinovich.
- He serves on several service and volunteer boards including the New Albany Community Events Board and the Keep Ohio Beautiful Board of Trustees.

Commuters in Columbus, Cincinnati, and Cleveland saw increased law enforcement on congested, high-crash freeways beginning October 12 as state officials expand a new state program to reduce injuries and fatalities on Ohio freeways.

OhioSafe Commute, which is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Transportation, the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol, places officers on Ohio's busiest freeways. Officers patrol these high-crash corridors to enforce safe speeds and quickly clear crashes from roadways to prevent additional crashes and improve commute times for Ohio workers.

"We recognize that better highway engineering is only part of the solution to reducing crashes," said ODOT Director Gordon Proctor. "How we drive our highways is just as important in creating safer roadways and preventing injuries and deaths."

OhioSafe Commute began in 2003 as a \$500,000 pilot program in central Ohio. Based on the initial success of the program, ODOT has agreed to invest \$300,000 to expand the program's reach to Cincinnati and Cleveland. If the program continues to be successful, it may be expanded to other areas of the state next year.

"We know that OhioSafe Commute works — the program was successful in central Ohio, and we expect the same kind of results as we expand into Cleveland and Cincinnati," said

Director Kenneth L. Morckel of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. "By adding extra officers where needed and reminding Ohioans about the importance of good driving skills, we will save lives, reduce injuries and prevent tragedies from happening on our roadways."

On October 12, the following high-crash, congested locations were targeted:

- Interstate 71 in Cincinnati from north of SR 562 to south of I-275 (636 crashes)
- Interstate 480 in Cleveland from SR 237 to SR 94 (373 crashes)
- Interstate 70 in Columbus from 18th Avenue to Brice Road (626 crashes)
- Interstate 270 in Columbus from SR 161 to US 23 (374 crashes)
- Interstate 270 in Columbus from Morse Road to I-670 (158 crashes)
- SR 315 in Columbus from Lane Avenue to Olentangy River Road (321 crashes)

Combined, these areas accounted for about 2,500 crashes in 2003. The most common causes of crashes were following too close, failure to control, and excessive speed. Each year, there are approximately 380,000 crashes that kill 1,400 people and injure 190,000 people in Ohio.

OhioSafe Commute is funded by Governor Taft's Jobs and Progress Plan through the Department of Transportation. The plan calls for increasing the amount of money ODOT spends on high-crash locations from \$35 million to \$65 million annually.

### SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

As part of National School Bus Safety Week, the Ohio State Highway Patrol reminded children on school buses "Shhh...Railroad Crossing." This was the theme for National School Bus Safety Week October 17-24.

"In 2003 alone, there were 2,296 school bus crashes in Ohio," Colonel Paul McClellan, Patrol

superintendent said. "While this is a 5.4 percent decrease from 2002, there are still too many incidents placing Ohio's children at risk."

The Patrol conducts bus safety checks twice a year. They inspect school buses once at the beginning of the year and then one later in the year.

# Karen Kadar Receives 2004 Zenith Award

The Lifeline of Ohio Zenith Award was presented to Karen Kadar, driver training manager for the Ohio Department of Public Safety Driver Training Program. She was recognized as a community partner who has made a difference in raising awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation.

Several individuals and institutions were honored September 25, 2004 by Lifeline of Ohio for their role in saving lives through organ and tissue donation. Thirteen awards were presented by the federally designated organ procurement organization at the ceremony, "An Evening with the Stars," in Columbus, Ohio. Each award was introduced by a local individual whose life has been touched by donation. Among the presenters were organ and tissue transplant recipients, transplant candidates and donor family members.



Karen Kadar receives the Zenith Award from Lifeline of Ohio CEO Ken Halloway.

## MALABAR FARM AGROTERRORISM EXERCISE

The Ohio Department of Agriculture, along with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and other local, state, and federal agencies, conducted the animal disease emergency response plan on October 13 at Malabar Farm State Park.



Director of Communications for Department of Agriculture, Mark Anthony, is spokesperson.

The exercise prepared Ohio's response to a potential terrorist incident involving a dangerously contagious or infectious animal disease. "The exercise tested and ultimately improved Ohio's emergency preparedness in this very specialized area," said Fred Dailey, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "It provided valuable feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of our plans and training for responding to agroterrorism incidents."

The exercise tested four components of the Animal Disease Incident Index to the State Emergency Operations Plan, including euthanasia and disposal of diseased animals, two critical aspects of animal disease control and eradication in the most severe emergencies. Exercise participants used bales of straw as substitutes for diseased animals.

As part of the drill, uniformed law enforcement personnel enforced temporary road closures, practiced providing traffic stops at key intersections and shared critical information with drivers. A joint information center was created where news releases were written, and media questions and public inquiries were answered.

"The more times we can work together during training and exercises, the better Ohio's response will be during an actual event," said Dale Shipley, Executive Director of the Ohio EMA. "Exercises like this create new, stronger working relationships which are imperative in a disaster."

The exercise was sponsored by the State Homeland Security Grant Exercise Program, and was conducted as a no-fault learning environment as a practical training tool for Ohio's emergency responders and support personnel.

## Electronic Sign-In Assists Reinstatement Offices

The electronic sign-in system was designed by Customer Service Assistant Mike Bingham in June 2004 and will save the Bureau of Motor Vehicles approximately \$160,000 a year. It is a simple program that eliminates customer flow sheets.

The customer enters his or her social security number into a numeric electronic keypad. The customer's information would then be sent electronically to each caseworker for evaluation. This system also contains detailed reports that track customer arrival time, wait time and customers served per employee for each business day.

After Information Technology reviewed Mike's design, the electronic sign-in program was incorporated into the Withdrawal Management System used to reinstate customers. This system has eliminated customer sign-in sheets or flow sheets, including the printing, cost of storage, shipping and labor.



(Left to right): Tim Fisher, Mike Bingham and Chief of BMV Investigations Bill Whatmore. Mike was presented with a certificate and trophy for his cost-saving accomplishment.

## Ohio EMS Partners with Local Agencies Hosted Conference

The Division of Emergency Medical Services along with other local agencies hosted an EMS/Health Homeland Security Crisis Response Planning Conference at Deer Creek, November 9 -10, 2004.

The event was planned after discussions in early September with ODPS Director Kenneth Morckel and several state Board members regarding EMS' role in the Ohio Strategic Plan and their focus on homeland security.

The Director charged the Board to guide the EMS Community toward disaster preparedness and to write an appendix to the Ohio Strategic Plan that gives direction to Ohio's EMS community.

"The Division of EMS serves as the medical safety net for the state of Ohio by participating in the interagency coordination among EMS, emergency management, public safety, fire, hospitals and other local resources that would typically respond to mass casualty incidents," said Ohio EMS Director Richard Rucker.

In response to Director Morckel's request, a homeland security committee that includes representatives from all areas of the health arena was created. They met for the first time at the conference and participated in intensive brainstorming sessions for several key areas of concern for EMS in areas of WMD/bioterrorism response planning.

The committee will bring recommendations to the EMS Board, and the Board will meet in January 2005 to implement the goals of the disaster preparedness initiative.

# New Assistant Registrar is Anne Dean

**A**nne Dean has been named as the new Assistant Registrar over the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Operations. BMV Operations includes Central Operations comprised of the Customer Service Centers, the Audit and Consignment Unit and the Research Section, and Field Operations which includes the Investigations and Field Services areas. Anne began her new duties on November 15.

Anne brings a wealth of government experience to the BMV. Anne was recently the acting director of Boards and Commissions for Governor Taft. Prior to that, she served as the assistant director of Boards and Commissions and served the Governor in that capacity since July 1999.

Before joining the Governor's Office, Anne was the assistant to the chief legal counsel and assistant chief legal counsel of the Ohio Department of Development, where she received the 1998 Employee of the Year Award. From 1983 to 1994, Anne was the legal secretary in a private law practice



**BMV Assistant Registrar Anne Dean**

that dealt with PUCO and ICC motor transportation regulation issues. She also served as executive secretary of the Ohio Movers and Warehousemen's Association.

Anne is a member of the Greater Columbus Emmaus Community, an Ohio Reads volunteer for Kent Elementary, and a former secretary of the Westerville Habitat for Humanity.

She attended the University of Toledo and graduated from Granville High School. She lives in Westerville with her husband Jim and their three daughters, Ashley, Jessica and Kelly.



## Salute to Ohio Proud to be a Buckeye

The sights, sounds and smell of steam trains drew over 27,000 visitors to TrainFestival 2004 in Dennison, Ohio, over a weekend several months ago: evidence that rail tourism in Ohio is on the fast track.

It's a fascination with railroads. The Ohio Rail Development Commission has produced a handy guide to rail tourism sites across Ohio. The Rail Tourism Industry includes scenic railroads, rail museums, rail excursion organizations and other

rail tourism organizations and is an important part of Ohio's tourism industry.

If you'd like a copy of the Ohio Rail Tourism Guide, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Lynda Nelson at the Ohio Rail Development Commission at 50 West Broad Street, 15th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. You can also access information on rail tourism at the ORDC Web site: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/ohiorail/>.



# PUBLIC NEWS SAFETY NEWS

## Roving Reporter

**Q:** Do you have a funny elementary or kindergarten story or daycare story either about yourself or one of your children?

**A:** "When I was four, my friend from daycare and I decided to give each other haircuts. She took a little off the back of my hair, but I cut her bangs totally off. Our teacher was pretty upset and called both of our moms. As I recall, my mom spent a long time apologizing to her mom, but my friend and I both thought I did an okay job." **Kandee Tinkham, OSHP**

**A:** "When I was younger and in school, like most adolescents, my clean clothes were mixed in with my dirty clothes thrown all over my bedroom floor. As I was walking around the hall at school one day, I thought I kept feeling something odd on my leg. Later on in a class, I finally realized what the odd feeling was when a pair of underwear fell out from the pant leg. I was so embarrassed. Needless to say, my mom never had to ask me to pick up my clothes and keep the room tidy after that." **Rebecca Wharton, BMV**

## Making Daylight Savings Time Safe for Kids

The National Association for Pupil Transportation (NAPT) reminded children and drivers about safety with the change to Standard Time on October 31, 2004.

As autumn turns toward winter, the days are growing shorter. When we change our clocks from Daylight Savings Time back to Standard Time in the fall, it will be dark even earlier. This means that more children will be traveling to and from school in the dark, which puts them at greater risk of injuries from traffic crashes. Over half of all fatal pedestrian crashes and over one fourth of fatal bicycle crashes involving school-age children (ages 5-18) occur in low-light or dark conditions.

The NAPT reminded parents there are many things you can do to help your kids—or the kids in your neighborhood— get to school each morning and reach home safely at the end of the day. The three things they emphasize are:

1. You can help children learn and practice this important safety rule: "Be Seen to Be Safe." Let kids know that during the day and at dawn and dusk, they should wear bright or fluorescent clothing. At night, some colors appear
2. You can help kids remember to "stop, look left-right-left, and listen" before stepping off the curb, even where there is a traffic signal. Accompany your children when they walk to and from school as often as possible.
3. You can remind kids to avoid jaywalking and crossing from between parked vehicles. Crosswalks are safer and more visible, especially after dark.

to be black, so kids should carry a flashlight and/or wear retro-reflective gear that reflects light back to its source so motorists can see them. A motorist will quickly detect a child walking with a lit flashlight, or riding on a bike with an attached headlight and flashing taillight. And when combined with retro-reflective gear or strips of retro-reflective tape on their jacket, shoes, cap, helmet, or backpack, a child's odds of being seen are even more improved. The sooner motorists are alerted to something — like a child — moving up ahead, the sooner they can react.

These are good tips for children any time of the year.



### Question:

In what year did Columbus become Ohio's permanent capital?



Send your answers to:  
[lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us)

The year that Martin Luther King Jr. won the Nobel Peace Prize was 1964 (Oct. 14).

No one knew the answer to last month's trivia question.



## WHO? is it!

This person is the assistant administrator for HRM. Who is it?



The person in the October PSNEWS was Jamie Hald.

These people knew it:  
Peggy Barber and Rosland Hawkins

Send your answers to:  
[lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us](mailto:lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us)