

Roadside Review

Winter 2007 Issue 45

A Quarterly Newsletter of the
Missouri Department of Transportation's
Adopt-A-Highway Program



Adopt-A-Highway in Iraq?

Minnesota's Adopt-A-Highway program is helping keep roadways safe for soldiers and civilians in Iraq and saving the United States money and resources, thanks to a Minnesota National Guard officer and his brigade.

Minnesota resident and civil affairs officer for the 1/34th Brigade Combat Team in Iraq, Major Jake Kulzer, is using the Minnesota AAH model in Iraq. The brigade employs local tribes in remote southern areas to keep roadways clear of trash and debris and, most importantly, free of explosive devices. The 1/34th Brigade, known as the Red Bulls, started this initiative in July 2006 after they lost two members to these types of bombs hidden among roadway debris last June.

Kulzer developed the Civilian Transportation Improvement Team to be in charge of arranging local tribes to protect and clear highways within their security responsibility area. The program provides employment for Iraqis in an area where 60 percent of people are unemployed. Much of Kulzer's job centers on projects intended to make life better for the local Iraqis so they will see United States forces in a positive light.

The program employs approximately 100 highway maintenance people each day for local wages of \$10-15 per day. In comparison, it would cost one unit of U.S. soldiers about \$370,000 to patrol the highways.

Since the program began, the discovery rate of the explosive devices has improved 100 percent because the removal of the debris makes it easier to locate them. No Iraqis have been killed, injured or threat-



Photograph courtesy of the Minnesota National Guard.

Locals clear a roadway in Iraq on Nov. 10, 2006.

ened for participating in the program. Other units are beginning to adopt Kulzer's program, including a few closer to Baghdad.

"Minnesota is proud that the concept of Adopt-A-Highway inspired Maj. Kulzer to allow the tribal locals to play an active role in their own safety and that of others," said Jan Ekern, Minnesota Adopt-A-Highway coordinator. "Civic responsibility is best embraced at the local level – a concept proved over and over again by the thousands of AAH volunteers around the country."

For more information, visit www.minnesotanationalguard.org. ■

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer Deserves Gold Star for Extraordinary Clean-up Efforts

In four months, Lenora Thompson spent many hours picking up 18 bags of trash from Route H in McDonald County – much more than is required for the whole year! Thompson doesn't just clean up the required four times a year; in fact, in the past four months she picked up trash on eight different occasions! Whether solo, or accompanied by family members, Thompson is out in all kinds of weather picking up trash – even braving a 95-degree day in August.

"I am a cyclist and I notice how filthy the roadways are when I go out biking," Thompson said. "Some of them are so bad in our community. It's just so sad in the spring to see the new wildflowers coming up between beer cans."

Thompson became interested in the Adopt-A-Highway program after seeing some of the signs along the roadways in her area. Even though Thompson has only been an adopter since March 2005,

she has been cleaning up her community's roadways for a few years now.

"I never heard of a program like this before I moved to Missouri," Thompson said. "I've been excited to see more and more signs popping up in our area, which means more people are helping clean up!"

Thompson tries to encourage others to keep her community litter free. When a

Continued on page 2

Better Roads, Brighter Future

MoDOT plans to improve the remainder of the state's 5,600 miles of major highways over the next five years. These busy highways will receive wider stripes, rumble stripes, brighter signs, paved shoulders and smooth pavement that will bring 85 percent of Missouri's major highway system up to good condition by the end of 2011.

Called Better Roads, Brighter Future, the program targets highways carrying 80 percent of all traffic on the state highway system- that's 103 million miles traveled a day. About 95 percent of all Missourians live within 10 miles of one of these roads.

"This program delivers three tremendous benefits - it will save lives, create jobs and save motorists money," said Pete Rahn, MoDOT director. "When the five-year program is complete, the improved roads will prevent approximately 85 disabling injuries and save 10 lives every year."

Tired of Tires?

Do you have between 500 to 10,000 tires that you want to unload? The Missouri Department of Natural Resources can help! As of Nov. 1, 2006, your scrap tires can be picked up for free thanks to DNR's Tire Dump Roundup program.

The program is open to all property owners who want to get rid of 500 to 10,000 tires and is funded from a statewide scrap tire fee collected every time a new tire is purchased. More than 14 million tires across Missouri have been cleaned up using revenue from this fee.

Tire dumping can pose serious environment and health threats. Insects and rodents that live and breed in the dumps can transmit disease, such as the West Nile Virus. In addition, fires at these dumps release hazardous substances into the environment and the fires can last for months or even years.

When disposed of properly, the recycled tire material can be used to create playground surfaces, tracks, recycled rubber products and can even be burned for fuel.

The program will support more than 48,000 jobs. When the roads are improved, every city along those highways will be a more attractive place for a new company to locate.

"Smooth roads mean a 2.4 percent improvement in fuel economy. With all the miles traveled each day on these roads, that works out to \$100 million a year in fuel savings - that money goes right back into motorists' pockets," Rahn said. "It's also estimated that rough roads cost the average driver \$275 a year in increased maintenance costs, which will be saved when the roads are better."

The five-year program will cost \$1.1 billion, using existing funds allocated for taking care of the state highway system. Currently MoDOT is identifying the roads in need of the most improvement that will benefit the most drivers.

For more information on the Better Roads, Brighter Future program, please visit <http://www.modot.org/>. ■

"We have made great strides in dealing with the tire dumps throughout Missouri," said Department of Natural Resources Director Doyle Childers. "The large dump sites are almost gone, and the Tire Dump Roundup program will help tremendously in getting the rest of the smaller dumps cleaned up."

To participate in the Tire Roundup Program, property owners must meet certain criteria to participate and must sign an access agreement, which states that if the property owner violates the solid waste management law in the future, the department can assess penalties and fines. Participants in prior cleanup initiatives and active businesses are not eligible.

For more information about the program, visit www.dnr.mo.gov/swmp or contact the scrap tire unit at 1-800-361-4827 or (573) 526-3909. ■



The Bishop tire site is currently being cleaned up.

ADOPTER SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 1

2 recent city ordinance allowed groups to adopt a street, her company was the first to sign up.

"We really appreciate all the work Lenora does to keep Route H clean," said Vicky Luciano, southwest Adopt-A-Highway coordinator. "We also really appreciate her comments because she is always very positive and willing to help."

Thompson lives in Noel and works for the Noel Housing Authority as a housing

manager for about 100 low-income and fixed income apartments. She also helps organize Noel's annual Christmas parade.

Old Tires May Never Retire

Just think, your vehicle's tires driving on Missouri roads today could someday become part of the road! MoDOT's Construction and Materials Division is currently testing a new kind of pavement that blends asphalt with ground tire rubber from used tires. The process will save money while providing a unique way to recycle old tire rubber.

"If successful, this project will be a great way to recycle tons of old, worn out tires," said MoDOT Field Materials Engineer Joe Schroer. "One layer of a 12-foot wide interstate highway mile uses about 580 tires!"

Most of the material comes from worn out tires, although some comes from tire manufacturing or re-treating plants. The tires are frozen and then ground to the consistency of fine sand. Polyester and steel pieces are removed from the ground up tires. The ground tires are then added to asphalt and other materials, so the surface can withstand high temperatures.

MoDOT is currently evaluating three projects put in earlier this year. This isn't the first time Missouri has toyed with the idea of using recycled tire rubber. In the early 1990s, MoDOT tested a few projects that involved recycled tire rubber.

"The process used in the 90s blended the tires and asphalt at a very high temperature and were not successful in states with



Interstate 29 in St. Joseph is one area where the tire-asphalt mixture is being tested.

drastic weather changes," Schroer said. "However, we are more confident with our new method of making the asphalt mixture and it has been used in some southern states for many years." ■

MoDOT ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Litter Cleanup



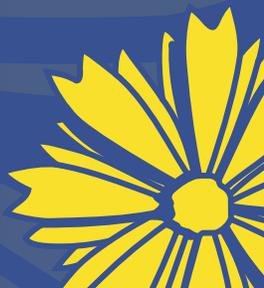
5,217 MILES

3,707 ADOPTERS

SAFETY TIP

Winter may not be the perfect time to cleanup trash, but it's the perfect time to make sure you have all your safety equipment ready for your next cleanup.

Contact your local Adopt-A-Highway coordinator if you need to update your safety equipment.



Picking up trash is educational

This article was originally published as a guest column in the Vandalia Leader. The author, Bob Moore, is a former White House correspondent who is retired in Vandalia and currently picks up trash as a member of the Rotary Club.

After lo these many years – 70 of them, in fact – I have finally found my true calling in life. Something that gives real meaning to my mediocre human existence... PICKING UP TRASH.

I've discovered that anyone can learn a great deal about their fellow man, and woman, by picking up trash. And, it never would have come to my attention had it not been for the Vandalia Rotary Club. Armed with our yellow MoDOT trash bags and long sticks with nails on the end for trash stabbing, off we go, usually in two-person pick-up crews.

This time, Mortimer (I'm not using real names here to protect the guilty) and I took the south side of the road heading west to east. After getting a big bag of trash upon reaching the Dairy Queen, Mort and I decided to check up on our buddies.

"What you guys got?" we asked.

"Nothing much so far, only a bunch of soda cans, beer bottles, an empty pickle jar and this old orange water pail" Jack said.

I was so pumped-up over what we had found by picking up trash, I turned to Mort and asked, "Maybe we should contact MoDOT to find out what kinds of trash other people get. I'll place the call. We might even get lucky and reach Rhonda Roadkill. She's a big cheese in Jefferson City nowadays, and I knew her in high school."

"Hello, MoDOT, this is Rhonda speaking. How may I help you?"

"I'm with the Vandalia Rotary Club now, Rhonda. My buddy Mort and I are picking up trash along Highway 54. We were wondering what sort of trash other people get."

"Well most of the trash is fast-food waste, 33 percent. Next is paper, 29 percent; followed by aluminum, 28 percent."

"What happens to this trash, Rhonda, after we stuff it into our yellow MoDOT trash bags and your guys haul it off?"

"We take it to landfills, Bob, where it will decompose... eventually. Banana peels decompose the quickest, about three to four weeks. Other litter takes longer – plastic jugs and foam containers take at least a million years to decompose."

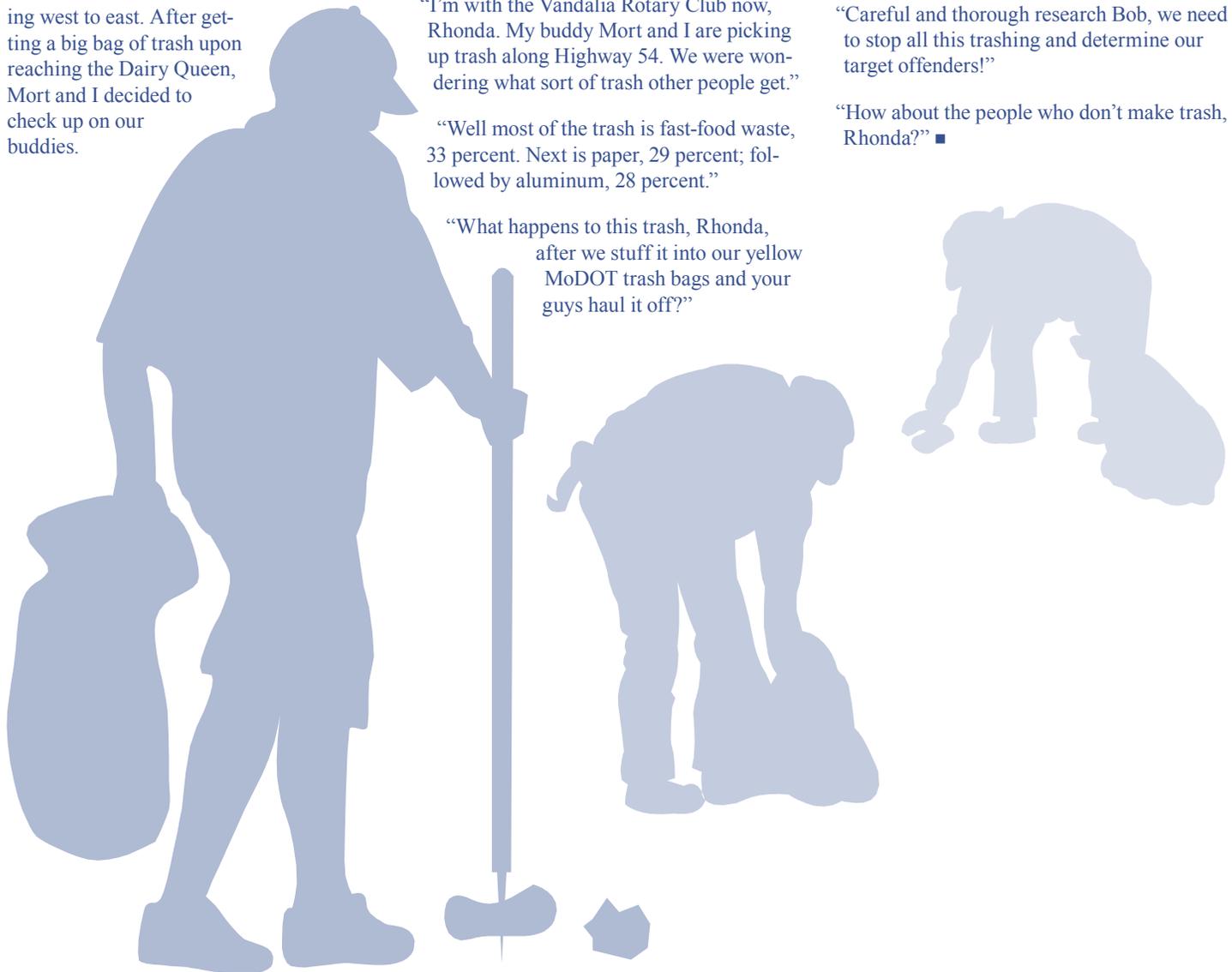
"Good grief, Rhonda. If more folks were aware of this they probably wouldn't litter so much."

"You got that right. We've found a number of reasons people litter, but most of them are just too lazy to dispose of trash properly. Most of them are between ages 16 and 24. They smoke, eat fast food at least two nights a week, go out for nighttime entertainment at least one night a week and they've never been married."

"How do you know all this stuff, Rhonda?"

"Careful and thorough research Bob, we need to stop all this trashing and determine our target offenders!"

"How about the people who don't make trash, Rhonda?" ■



New Adopters

October - December, 2006

October 2006

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
 Alpha Pi Sigma MCC-BR Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa
 American Gold Star Mothers
 Beta Pi Eta of State Fair Community College
 Boy Scout Troop 403 – Holden, MO
 Depot Inn-Amtrak, La Plata
 Drexel Elementary PTO
 Harrisonville Lions Club
 In Loving Memory of “Our Gift” Thomas W. Bunck
 In Loving Memory of Beverly J. Garrett and Beulah J. Hunter
 In Loving Memory of Dean Stutsman, Husband-Dad-Paw-Paw
 In Loving Memory of Louis Biggerstaff
 In Loving Memory of Makayli Dawn Byalick
 In Memory of Cody Gareth Dorman
 In Memory of David Grimes “Pnut” War-child Riding Group
 In Memory of Dena Carrender, Macon R-1 NHS
 In Memory of Molly McWilliams
 Knights of Columbus, St. Patrick’s Council #6722, Holden
 Lake of the Ozark Land Title Company
 Ma’s Motorsports
 New Franklin High School Student Council
 Oran High School FBLA & FFA
 Otterville FFA Organization
 Parker Building Company
 Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Mo. Alpha Chapter
 Scoutland FCCLA Chapter
 St. Clair Fire Protection District, Ladies Auxiliary
 Stauffer’s Angus Farm
 Tip Top Ranch, Dr. Tom Kuefler Jr. Family and Friends
 UMR Kappa MU Epsilon, Math Honor Society
 Union Hill Church of Christ Youth Group

November 2006

Ackert Family, Timothy, Jayne, Jacob & Christian
 Belton Lions Club, Belton Lions Leo Club, Belton Lions Cubs
 Benita’s Catering, Davis Family, Lynch Family
 Chapel of the Lake Youth Ministries (CYM)
 Gerry Mack
 In Loving Memory of Hughie “Clint” Thompson
 In Loving Memory of Our Angel Donna K.
 In Loving Memory, Xavier G. Gibson “Peanut”
 In Memory of Vicky Lynn Woods Terry
 Jeff Duncan, Bob Lochner and Families
 Line Heart Ministry, Pleasant Grove Church
 Oak Park Village Apartments
 PPS, JEFFCO, Tammy Berg
 Schuyler County Kids Can
 Sherwood FFA Chapter, Sherwood High School
 Shiloh 4-H
 Steve & Jessica Ashley of Evergreen Lakes

December 2006

Chandra Renee Davis, Daughter, Sister & Mother
 Clever PTA
 Dixie Christian Church and the Dixie Youth Group
 Ghost Doggs Motorcycle Club
 Hatton-McCredie National Honor Society
 In Loving Memory of Daniel Bowles
 In Loving Memory of Debbie Mullen
 In Loving Memory of Eddie D. McKee
 In Loving Memory of Garrett Kristopher Troy Williams
 In Loving Memory of Kay Bowles
 In Loving Memory of Kenneth Wynn, Wife & Wynn Children
 In Loving Memory of our Grandparents, Bea and Grego
 In Memory of Rita J. Moynihan
 Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Lu Colony
 Job’s Daughters Bethel #7, Kearney-Smithville
 Number One Stunnas Motor Sport Club
 Oak Ridge Mennonite Youth Group
 Paul E. Corl
 Platte County H.S. Science Club
 Pro-Farmers 4-H Club, Jefferson County
 Unitec Career Center Sills USA, Bonne Terre

Thank You New Adopters!

Roadside Review is a quarterly newsletter published by the Maintenance unit of the Missouri Department of Transportation. It is mailed to Adopt-A-Highway volunteers and other interested groups. After reading, please share this newsletter with others. Additional copies are available upon request.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact:

System Management

Stacy Armstrong
State Adopt-A-Highway
Coordinator
Melissa Black/Sandy Hentges
Outreach Coordinator

Missouri Department of
Transportation
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Pete Rahn
MoDOT Director

Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission

William P. McKenna
Marge Schramm
Duane S. Michie
James B. Anderson
Mike Kehoe
David A. Gach

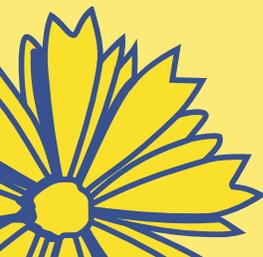
Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.



For more information about the Adopt-A-Highway program:

888 ASK MODOT
aah@modot.mo.gov
www.modot.org

 This newsletter was printed on recycled paper to help preserve our environment.



Roadside Review

Missouri Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 270
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSTD STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Jefferson City, MO 65101
Permit No. 24

TALKIN' TRASH

Don't Miss this Year's Big Bash!

It's time to mark your calendars for the annual No MORE Trash! Bash, coming up in April! The bash is a litter-prevention celebration co-sponsored by the Missouri departments of Transportation and Conservation. The bash brings

together thousands of volunteers who participate in a variety of trash clean-up events in April.



Last year, thousands of people statewide picked up more than 78,000 bags of trash and attended many cleanups and other events. Don't forget to make your contribution to the bash by scheduling a litter pickup for your group this April. ■



Two volunteers pick up trash in April.

For more information on the upcoming events or how you can get involved, visit www.nomotrash.org.