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Technology Transfer Newsletter

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ASHLEY COUNTY LOSES CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As did the citizens of Ashley County, the Arkansas Technology Transfer Program and the County Judges Association of Arkansas lost a good friend on November 24, 2003. The Honorable Larry Kinnaird, Ashley County Judge, lost his battle with cancer. Judge Kinnaird, 63, passed away at his home Monday, November 24, 2003.



Judge Kinnaird began his tenure as Ashley County Judge on January 1, 1999 and had been re-elected for a third term in November of 2002. Even though the disease was labeled as terminal, Judge Kinnaird opted not to resign his position as the County's Chief Executive. As an Ashley County and Hamburg native, his political career began as a Justice of the Peace in the mid 1960s, where he served for six consecutive terms. He had been employed at Georgia-Pacific for 26 years prior to retirement.

While serving as judge, he was a member of the County Judges Association of Arkansas and served on the Executive Committee for the Southeast District. He had the honor of being the only Arkansas county judge to be asked by the Governor to serve on the Next Step Program. He was also a member of the SEARK Economic Development District. The SEARK Substance Abuse Program recently named its new facility in Warren, the Kinnaird Center, for his dedication to the program. The Technology Transfer Program will miss Judge Kinnaird.

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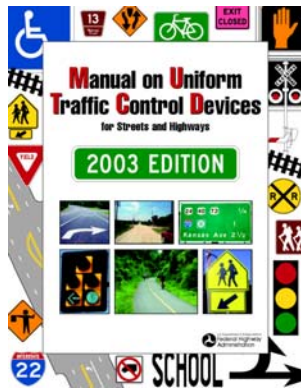


Saline County Courthouse, Benton, Arkansas

Mailing Label
2" X 4"

NEW 2003 MUTCD MANUAL PUBLISHED

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced that the Final Rule for the issuance of the new 2003 Edition of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) has been published in the Federal Register. The Final Rule describes all the significant changes in the MUTCD from the 2000 edition and the reasons for the changes. There are 384 significant changes and/or comments published in the new Federal Register, dated November 20, 2003.



To view, download and/or print the complete text and figures for the new 2003 MUTCD and to link to the Final Rule notice in the Federal register, please visit the FHWA's MUTCD website

at: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>.

The Arkansas Technology Transfer (T²) Program has purchased a limited number of the new manuals for distribution to counties and cities around the State. The T² office makes the manuals available to local agencies at no cost.

Training seminars to discuss the new changes and/or additions to the manual will be scheduled at selected locations around the State during the summer of 2004. We are hoping to partner with the State's Planning/Economic and Development Districts to provide the training seminars at established and centralized locations around the State. Once a training schedule is developed and established, local county and city agencies will be notified in advance and will have the opportunity to attend one of the scheduled free training seminars. Any remaining presentation dates will be listed in the next issue of Arkansas Roads and Streets.

SHORT SPAN BRIDGE DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE SEMINAR

Once again, the Arkansas T² Program is working with Dr. Tom Parsons, Professor of Civil Engineering at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, to develop additional training seminars/workshops on Short Span Bridge Design and Maintenance. In addition to the previously developed training course on Short Span Bridges, presented in 2003, we are sponsoring the development of training to specifically address the design elements of short span bridges and the proper inspection and maintenance obligations for those bridges. Simplified guidelines for determining bridge load ratings will be developed for use by local agencies in bridge evaluation. The T² Center hopes to again partner with the State's Planning/Economic and Development Districts to present the updated information after the courses are developed. We anticipate that a "pilot course" for each of the new training seminars will be available by late summer. Additional information on course availability and locations will be forthcoming.



NEW COUNTY JUDGES APPOINTED

New County Judges have recently been appointed in Ashley, Carroll and Greene Counties. Judge Jan Lauhon was appointed to serve the remaining term of Ashley County Judge Larry Kinnaird, who passed away on November 24, 2003. Judge Mike Botelho was appointed to complete the remaining term of Carroll County Judge Ed Robertson, who resigned for health reasons. Judge Willie Gene Williams was appointed to serve the remaining term of Green County Judge Levi Pillow, who resigned.

GPS AND GIS SEMINARS SCHEDULED FOR 2004

The T² Center had the opportunity to work with the Engineering Department of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in the development and presentation of seminars on Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to local agencies around the State during 2003. Pursuant to comments and requests received from local agencies, we are once again scheduling updated GPS seminars/workshops around the state when requested. This will not only provide information on the early concepts and development of GPS navigation, but will provide enhanced knowledge of the inner workings of the systems and will better acquaint the users with the systems that are available and how to choose the equipment that best suits their individual needs. Additional consideration is being given to incorporating training seminars on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This training module will assist the GPS user with the incorporation of GPS data with GIS software to provide them with the management and planning skills needed to better address environmental issues, locate and map out utilities, and assist with future street construction or realignment projects.

APWA (Arkansas Chapter) Spring Conference

May 19 - 21, 2004, at the Clarion Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas
For more information contact:
Walt Catlett at (501) 376-3581

70th Annual Arkansas Municipal League Convention

June 16 - 18, 2004 at the Peabody State House Convention Center
Little Rock, Arkansas
For more information contact:
Ken Wasson at (501)-374-3484, ext. 211

County Judges Association of Arkansas Annual Spring Meeting

June 17 - 18, 2004 at the Embassy Suites
Rogers, Arkansas
For more information contact:
David Morris at (501) 372-7550



T² LOSES LONGTIME FRIEND

The Arkansas T² Program regrets the recent loss of a long time friend and training facilitator. Mr. O.H. "Bill" Mullenax, age 67 and president of Mid South Education Center, Inc., died December 24, 2003. He had fought a long battle with Congestive Heart Failure. Bill spent 30 years with the Arkansas State Police, where he was in charge of numerous Public Safety programs for that agency. After retirement from the State Police, he founded Mid South Safety Council, Inc., which later became Mid South Education Center, Inc., where he served as president of the business until his death. Bill worked with the National Safety Council for years and served as a board member. He was also a board member of the Arkansas State Police Retirement System and a member of the Arkansas State Police Commission. The T² program and all that knew him will miss Mr. Bill Mullenax. The business and T² sponsored "Defensive Driving" training seminars, conducted by Mid South Education Center, will continue to operate under the capable leadership of Ms. Jan Cummings, who has served as the General Manager of the business for a number of years.