



Saint Louis County

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Arrowhead Regional Corrections parole officer to be honored by State Patrol

A parole officer for Arrowhead Regional Corrections (ARC), who rushed to the assistance of a state trooper whose vehicle had been rammed by a drunk driver, is being recognized by the Minnesota State Patrol for outstanding service.

Jeff Oja had been working the night of May 5, 2012, conducting field visits for clients on intensive supervised release, when he heard a call on his radio for a state trooper in need of assistance. That trooper, Aaron Nevala, had stopped a suspected drunk driver in Britt. The suspect backed his vehicle into the squad car, disabling it, and then drove off. Oja responded to the scene, picked up Nevala, and joined in the pursuit of the suspect.

Oja will be presented the Meritorious Citizenship award at a banquet in the Twin Cities on April 29. He has worked for Arrowhead Regional Corrections since 1997 and serves the northern portion of the ARC district, including northern St. Louis County, plus Koochiching, Lake and Cook Counties.

Arrowhead Regional Corrections provides corrections services to the five counties in Minnesota's Arrowhead region. ARC provides court and field probation services, plus operates the Northeast Regional Corrections Center and Arrowhead Juvenile Center.

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