



Newsletter Committee

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Wastewater Treatment in Eastern Lake County

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The Newsletter Committee wishes you and your loved ones a safe and happy holiday season.

The Madison Waste Water Treatment Plant is nearing capacity. For the past 24 months treatment alternatives have been under consideration. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009 to expand the plant. As planning for the expansion continues, let's review how we arrived at this point.

In 1922 a general plan was completed for the purpose of providing sanitary sewer service to eastern Lake County. *Madison Sewer District No. 1* was created and construction of the treatment plant was completed in 1924 at a cost of about \$20,000. The plant consisted of a coarse screening chamber, a settling tank and disinfection prior to discharge into Lake Erie. An interceptor sewer and the Lake Road Lift Station followed in the same year. According to the general plan, this system was needed to serve the "many cottages being constructed along Lake Erie".

In 1958, growth in the area required the construction of a second settling tank and a new outfall pipe extending 500 feet into the lake. This expansion doubled the capacity of the Dock Road Plant to about 2 million gallons per day (MGD).

In the early 1970's another expansion was needed. Options included expanding the plant at the existing site, or starting from scratch. Because of new environmental regulations proposed in the U.S. Congress and the technologies being developed for better treatment, a new plant was determined to be the best option.

The new plant was constructed for just over \$4 million on the north east corner of Cashen Rd (then Vrooman Rd) and Dock Rd. The treatment plant is designed to handle 3 MGD but can handle up to 7.5 MGD during rain events. We now serve nearly 5,000 homes & businesses in the communities of Perry Village, North Perry Village and Perry Township in addition to Madison Township.

The upcoming plant expansion will cost about \$12 million. It will add 1 MGD of treatment capacity and continue to provide sanitary sewer service to residents in eastern Lake County for many years to come.

Submitted By: Randy Rothlisberger, Engineering

Professional Development Group Update

The Professional Development Group (PDG) recently held their last meeting for 2007 at the Aquarius Water Plant. Bill Simone and Grant Glazier did a great job of presenting the Department's requisition and purchasing process. The PDG Core Group (Dee Hine, Randy Rothlisberger, Tom Moviel, John Diemert, Jolene Ball and Scott Cole) presented the newly-composed Professional Development Group Written Program.

The Program is a work-in-progress. It outlines the purpose, expectations and steps of progression for PDG participants. Each employee in the Program is responsible for charting their own personal development with the help of their supervisor, the Core Group and tools from the Written Program.

Contact any member of the PDG Core Group for further information or a copy of the Written Program.

Submitted By: Dee Hine, Aquarius

Meet Our New Employee - Candi Coulter

Q.: *Where did you grow up and go to school?*

A: I grew up in Painesville Township and attended Riverside High School.

Q: *What do you like most about your position/job?*

A: I like the people and I like that I get to do different things...the variety.

Q: *Do you have any family in the area?*

A: Yes. I have a husband, daughter, sister, brother, dad and stepmother all in the area. My mother and stepfather are snowbirds and are only here for part of the year.

Q: *What's the most interesting place you've been and why?*

A: The Thomas Edison Museum in Fort Myers, Florida was really interesting. The museum has the complete history of Thomas Edison as well as many of his early electricity artifacts.

Q: *What's your favorite food?*

A: Hawaiian Pizza followed closely by Chicken-Broccoli Alfredo.

Q: *What's your favorite music?*

A: Country and Classic Rock.

Q: *What's your favorite after work activity?*

A: Spending time with my family, exercising and visiting local wineries (Chalet Debonne and Grand River Cellars are two of my favorites).



Candi Coulter
Account Clerk

OSHA's Top 5 Most Cited Violations from 2007

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Scaffolding = 10,188 violations | 4. Respiratory Protection = 4,113 violations |
| 2. Fall Protection = 6,786 violations | 5. Lockout / Tagout = 3,978 violations |
| 3. Hazard Communication = 6,658 violations | |

Source: National Safety Council

Meet Our New Employee - Domanick Sherwood

Q.: *Where did you grow up and go to school?*

A: I grew up in Fairport but moved to Painesville Township when I was 12 and stayed in the Fairport school system.

Q: *Did you play any sports growing up?*

A: Football, basketball, baseball and track. I currently play in a men's basketball league.

Q: *What do you like most about your position/job?*

A: I really like all of the people. They are all very helpful.

Q: *Do you have any family in the area?*

A: Parents (Fairport), both grandmas (Fairport), 2 sisters (Painesville Township) and 1 brother (Willoughby).

Q: *What's the most interesting place you've been and why?*

A: Mexico. Mostly because it's the most fun I've ever had anywhere.

Q: *What's currently your favorite TV show?*

A: I like Ultimate Fighter. I also like all sporting events but mainly football and basketball.

Q: *What's your favorite after work activity?*

A: Spend time with my kids. When I'm not with my kids I like to ride my motorcycle, hunt, fish and work out.



Domanick Sherwood
GLK Operator

"U" Tell

Do you have a story that you would like to share?
Contact a Newsletter Committee Member.

It was a normal, but busy day at work. I was returning phone calls and taking care of customers who were requesting permits and drawings at the front window. My desk sits about 15 feet from the customer service window and I have a direct view of customers coming into our office.

While returning customer phone calls, I noticed a gentleman at the window being assisted by a fellow co-worker. The customer was being helped so I continued to return calls.

My next call was answered rather quickly and coincidentally, in unison with the customer at the window's cell phone. Thinking nothing of the occurrence, I proceeded by identifying myself and answering the customer's questions.

As I continued talking, I realized my questions were in sync with the customer up front. I asked another question, glanced up at the window, and that customer replied, "Tonya, I am looking right at you!" The customer I had called was the same customer at the window! Both of us had a good laugh. I was a little embarrassed, but the customer was very pleased with the thoroughness of my answers and the timeliness of our staff.

Submitted By: Tonya Reidy, Engineering

Please help us congratulate your fellow employees for obtaining the following Ohio EPA Licenses:

Pat Bush - Aquarius - Water Operator, Class III

Joe Abel - Madison - Wastewater Operator, Class I

Susan Brochak - Madison - Lab Analyst, Class II

Mike Spencer - GLK - Wastewater Operator, Class I

Brian Cook - Inspector - Water Distribution, Class I

Safety News

ARRRGHHHH Matey! There's a new hidden treasure and X marks the spot!

You may or may not have noticed a new drive directory on the County network. The new drive is the "X" Drive or Safety Drive. The X drive allows employees access to view and print all of the information stored in this folder from each respective site. This new drive will increase our safety communications while giving each employee the ability to print the most current and up-to-date forms and procedures and other safety information specific to our Department.

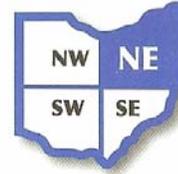
Examples of information that you'll be able to eventually acquire from the X Drive is:

- Approved Safety Guidelines, Procedures and Programs
- Safety Forms
- Lockout / Tagout Procedures
- Safety Training Lesson Plans
- Safety Training Presentations
- Central Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
- Executive Safety Committee Meeting Minutes
- Safety Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- Noise Exposure and Emergency Evacuation Maps
- Material Safety Data Sheet Master Inventories
- Best Practice Examples
- Photos from Safety Audits, Training and Incidents
- Safety Posters
- General Safety Communications
- And Much, Much More....So go explore!

Instruction on accessing the X Drive: 1. Go to My Computer; and
2. Double Left Click on Network Drive "X".

Submitted By: Scott Cole, Safety

Lake County Hosts Northeast Fall Meeting



Thanks to the staff of the Lake County Aquarius Water Plant for the great job in providing tours, technical program, and great lunch on October 11. Over 100 toured the plant, and 130 attended the lunch and technical sessions at the Croatian Lodge Party Center. Jay Spetrino, Nick Pizzi, John Diemert, Mike McWhirter, Doug Keller, and Dave Warner provided contact hours on current issues.



Chair Ted Burton presented an appreciation plaque for hosting the Fall meeting to Rick Martin, Jay Spetrino, and County Commissioners Raymond Sine and Daniel Troy.



2007-08 Officers Front row Assistant Sec/Treas Sandra Vozar, Sec/Treas Todd Fetty. Back row Past Chair Ted Burton, Vice Chair Robin Liss, Chair Jeff Bronowski, and Vice Chair Dean Reynolds.



Dean Reynolds Superintendent of the Alliance water plant was elected Vice Chair. Dean moved to Ohio from Iowa and has been with the City for 8 months. Dean has over 6 years of plant experience.



Tour guides Mark Benkus, Buddy Scoville, and Mark Foulkrod.



Plant staff John Diemert, Jay Spetrino, Dee Hine, and Rick Martin.



Plaques were presented to Jach Sumrada and Buddy Scoville for 20 years of AWWA membership.



Congratulations Rick Martin, Executive Director



OHIO SECTION NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007

Fuller Award

Rick Martin

Rick Martin received the Ohio Section AWWA's highest award for his distinguished service in the water supply field in commemoration of sound engineering skill, brilliant diplomatic talent, and constructive leadership of men and women in the association.

Prior to attending college, Rick spent some time as an operator in a Lake County wastewater facility, and went back to that Utility to find employment in management upon graduating from Xavier with a degree in business administration. With no management positions being available, Rick took the only position open at that time- shift operator of the local water treatment plant. This move would prove to be advantageous as Rick began the process of learning operator involvement in the overall "big picture" of potable water production.



Assisting the water manager, our recipient rose through the ranks of management to Superintendent of both of the Water treatment Facilities, and was appointed Director of Water supply when the manager moved on to a neighboring Utility. Under Rick's leadership, the Utility became the first facility in Ohio to win the Ohio EPA Excellence Award in consecutive years. This excellence was rewarded by further promotion – to that of Executive Director of the Department of Utilities.

Rick obtained his Ohio EPA Class IV License and was recognized by the Ohio Section AWWA in 1995 when they bestowed upon him the Operator Meritorious Service Award. Rick found time to serve as Northeast District Secretary/Treasurer for six years and received the AWWA LaDue Award in 2006. Rick served as Chair of the Ohio Section Community Relations Committee for two years, as Chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee for another five years, and has also served on the technical programs committee. In 2001, he published an article in AWWA's OPFLOW magazine entitled "Cleaning Storage Tanks".

Baked Sweet Potatoes with Ginger and Honey

3 pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
1/2 cup honey
3 tablespoons grated fresh ginger
2 tablespoons walnut oil
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
2. In a large bowl, toss together the sweet potatoes, honey, ginger, walnut oil, cardamom, and pepper.
3. Transfer mixed ingredients to a large cast iron frying pan.
4. Bake for 20 minutes in the preheated oven.
5. Stir the potatoes to expose the pieces from the bottom of the pan.
6. Bake for another 20 minutes, or until the sweet potatoes are tender and caramelized on the outside.

Source: www.allrecipes.com



Employee Spotlight

Lauren Schuler
Engineering Assistant



Lauren was hired in 2003 as part of our seasonal employment program. She was a student studying civil engineering at Lakeland Community College and was a perfect fit to the newly launched GPS project. Lauren returned as a seasonal employee in 2004 and continued collecting data with the GPS staff. After her second year as a seasonal employee, Lauren applied for an open position as an Engineering Assistant and was hired on full time.

Lauren has been instrumental in the set up of our GPS system and the collection of GPS data throughout the County. Her daily responsibilities include customer service, processing sanitary sewer and water permits, and researching records for customers and Department personnel. She also tracks all construction projects and assists inspectors on a daily basis. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lauren for all of her efforts each and every day. You are greatly appreciated.

Submitted By: Jolene Ball, Engineering

Do you like to collect anything?

I like to collect old world ornaments from Germany and Christmas movies. My favorite Christmas movie is National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. My friends say I collect lotions but I don't think so. I just buy too much of it.

Do you have any hobbies or interest?

I like to go four-wheeling, hiking and love to draw, when I have the time.

What do you like most about your job?

I like the people that I work with and being outdoors. I also enjoy being challenged.

Do you have any family in the area?

My brother and his wife live in Madison, and my parents live in Concord. I have an aunt and uncle that live in Florida.

Where did you grow up and go to school?

I lived in Cleveland until I was two, then my parents built a house in Concord and I've been there ever since.

What would you say is your least favorite household chore?

I would have to say taking out the trash is a pet peeve of mine.

Do you have any pets?

I have two dogs, a Husky named Kira and a Mutt named Lucy (she looks like an English Pointer). I also have a cat named Spike and a guinea pig named Angel.

What would you say is the most interesting place you have been?

Scottsdale, Arizona was the most interesting place. The mountains are red rock and people's gardens are filled with rocks and cactus. You just do not see anything like that around here.

What is your favorite type of music?

I like most music; alternative, rock, classic rock, and a little bit of rap, but my favorite is country.

Holiday Wassail

2 quarts apple cider	1 ½ cups orange juice
¾ cup pineapple juice	1 tablespoon brown sugar
½ teaspoon lemon juice	½ teaspoon cinnamon or 2 cinnamon sticks
½ teaspoon nutmeg	3 whole cloves

Directions:

1. Combine all of the ingredients in a large sauce pan and bring to a boil.
2. Reduce heat, cover or place in a crock pot and simmer for 20 – 30 min.
3. Add your favorite "happy juice", if desired.
4. Add lemon and orange slices for garnish.

Submitted By: Debera Douglas, Billing

Written Correspondence Committee Update

The Committee has reviewed and revised correspondence that includes letters to customers regarding waterline easements, smoke testing sanitary sewers, and duplication of billing payments.

When reviewing articles submitted by various divisions, the members of the committee contribute their thoughts and collectively revise the correspondence to improve communications to the customers.

We would like to welcome Maryhelen Gilkey of the East End Service Center as a new participant of the Written Correspondence Committee.

Submitted By: Dee Hine, Aquarius

Upcoming Holidays

New Year's Day - January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday -
January 21st

Presidents' Day - February 18th

According To...

The five best ideas for holiday stocking stuffers **According to Jay Spetrino:**

1. Lottery tickets
2. A CD of their favorite music
3. A special certificate made on the computer for whatever they want (examples include: a free hug, free dinner, special night out with or without kids)
4. Gift certificate to their favorite store
5. Chocolate candy

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

William Munger	1/2
Matt Armand	1/2
Gary Long	1/5
Michele Mallory	1/14
Shawn White	1/15
Josh Ellis	1/17
Scottie Burke	1/27
Joseph Fedor	1/31



Happy Birthday

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Kermit Johnson	2/2
Jonathan Hegfield	2/4
Gerald Roy	2/6
Susan Brochak	2/7
CJ Land	2/7
Richard Douglas	2/10
Michael Spencer	2/10
Steve Doremus	2/13
David Hernandez	2/14
Philip Spencer	2/16
Linda Millberg	2/16
John Thompson	2/16
Douglas Bradley	2/18
Barbara Cummings	2/21
Roscoe Snoeberger	2/23
Toni Ice	2/23



MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

Kenneth Stoneman	3/3
Tonya Reidy	3/5
Lauren Schuler	3/5
Scott Cole	3/10
Dennis Elliott	3/13
Frank Burkholder	3/13
Dee Hine	3/16
Nathaniel Proctor	3/19
Mike Erkkila	3/22
Michael Hozian	3/24
William Chandler	3/25
Brian Cook	3/25
Mark Brenkus	3/26
John Clarkson	3/26
Robert Blakesmith	3/29
Michael Sullivan	3/31

