



The Underground News

Awarded for Outstanding Performance

By Corrine Spetrino, Billing/Customer Service Office

The Water Treatment Plants, led by Ken Stoneman and Jay Spetrino, are part of an elite group to receive the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Partnership for Safe Water Phase III "Directors Award". The goal of the partnership is to guide water suppliers toward improving water quality by optimizing system operations. Phase III of the award took approximately one year to achieve, and is based on a voluntary self-assessment and peer review process. It also includes a comprehensive evaluation of treatment plant operations and performance, identification of performance limiting factors, and the development of action plans to achieve optimization. "The success of this award goes to the dedication & commitment of all our staff," said Ken. Both Ken and Jay are proud of the water plant staff for the focus and determination they show working 24/7 to deliver the best drinking water possible.

Congratulations to both plant employees and keep up the great work!

(Additional photos on page #6)



Communication - By Matt Armand, Administration Office



It is an unarguable fact that each day we communicate with countless people who all perceive the world differently. Consequently, clear and concise communication becomes seemingly more critical as we attentively work towards reducing misunderstandings and minimizing communication gaffes that hinder progress. Often times, people erroneously define communication as merely writing and speaking; rather, this multifaceted concept includes a multitude of other expressions—such as actively listening, providing meaningful feedback, demonstrating genuine interest, connecting and building fluid relationships, transmitting ideas and messages, and inspiring those around us. Yet, written and spoken words are certainly the most powerful force available to humanity; and, before we let our words take form, we should carefully construct our messages with care and thought, knowing that they contain the infinite power to encourage, motivate, heal, hurt, assist, deter, inspire, or humiliate. Although the LCDU Team has consistently demonstrated extraordinary communication skills, let us not rest on our laurels; instead, let us collectively and routinely recommit ourselves to delivering outstanding communication to both our internal and external customers.

Inside this issue

Director's Award	1
Communication	1
Party in the Park	2
Special Collections	2
Award Photos	3
Landfill Decompose	3
Safety News	4
New Licenses	4
New Employees	5
Anniversaries	5



Party in the Park by Sarah Cerovski, Engineering Office

For three days in the summer, Veteran's Park in downtown Painesville explodes with music, food, and local street vendors. The *Painesville Party in the Park* is a yearly summer event that began in 1980 as a community summer festival. Since then, the residents of Lake County, and other nearby towns, have been enjoying what is now Ohio's largest free music festival. Food vendors circle the square with hand dipped corn dogs, BBQ pit masters, and slow turned ice

cream. Music fills the park during the day and into the early night. The event coordinator for *Party in the Park* is Painesville Township Trustee, Gabe Cicconetti. "And it just keeps getting bigger each year," said Cicconetti to the News Herald. This year the festival featured over 30 musical acts on 3 stages. There was an extensive range of music genres that performed everything from classic rock to bluegrass and from jazz to country. A little bit for everyone!

"They offer many activities for my kids"

Josh Hattox, Lake County Utilities, Information System Operator

Hazardous Waste

Collection: Sept 24th

At the Lake County
Fairgrounds,
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Acceptable Items:

Household Cleaners & Solvents, Thinners, Kerosene, Turpentine, Lighter Fluid, Strippers, Used Motor oil, Diesel Fuel, Gasoline, Coolants, Antifreeze, Oil Based Paints, Pesticides, Weed Killers, Batteries – All Sizes, Fluorescent Bulbs, Mercury, Empty Propane Tanks

Questions 440-350-2644 or
OSU extension, Lake County
office 440-350-2582

Many of our very own Lake County Department of Utilities (LCDU) family members look forward to attending the festival. Josh Hattox enjoys bringing his family to *Party in the Park* every year. "They offer many activities for my kids," said Hattox. They have face painting, Jungle Terry, Home Depot craft station, and a Chinese raffle. The main event that draws Hattox is the music. With such a variety, it is hard to believe it is free. The festival requires year-round planning and coordinating to be so successful. David Woodford has been attending *Party in the Park* for over 10 years. "Gathering together after work with the LCDU family" is Dave's favorite memory. Many employees visit *Party in the Park* on their lunch hour to check out the fare. This is one reason why Randy Rothlisberger is drawn to the event. His favorite memory from *Party in the Park* 2016 is buying funnel cakes, one each for his wife and kids, but also one for himself.

The City of Painesville offers events every summer with *Art in the Park* and the *Farmer's Market* every Thursday, but *Party in the Park* is a yearly event that shouldn't be missed.



Aquarius Water Treatment Plant
 Mark Tenkku, Tom Bierer, Jay Spetrino,
 Ray Leggett, John Clarkson,
 James Boggs, Kerry Troy, CJ Davis,
 Mike Pegoraro, Jimmy Martin,
 Pat Bush, Dan Hambor, not pictured
 -Dave Baum, Erica Czaplicki, Toni Ice,
 Bill Joyce, Ken Overbaugh,
 Mike Shack, and Rich Siepka



**Bacon Rd
 Water Treatment Plant**
 Bill Chandler, Joe Bruno,
 Ken Stoneman, Tom Ridby,
 Paul Markell, not pictured
 David Conway, George Finney,
 Trevor Weaver, and Mike
 Mospen.

Landfill Decomposition Rates By Nancy Hamblin, Solid Waste Facility

Have you ever thought about what happens to items once you throw them away? If you don't recycle or re-use them, they will probably end up in a landfill. Once in a landfill, the only thing left for these items is to decompose.

Depending on the conditions, the following are **rough estimates** on the amount of time it takes various items to decompose:

- Apple Core ---- 1 to 2 months
- Cigarette Butts ---- 2 to 5 years
- Leather ---- 50 years
- Aluminum Can ---- 200 to 500 years
- Disposable Diapers ---- 450 years
- Plastic Bottles ---- 100 to 900 years
- Glass Bottles ---- 10,000 to 90,000 years Glass can outlast nearly everything
- Styrofoam ---- No sign of ever breaking down

New Licenses

By Barb Cummings, Administration Office

Class I, Distribution

Water

Doug Debiase
Matt Sutch
Len Crosby

Class I, Wastewater

Collections

Michael Martin

Class I, Sewer Plant

Operator

Matthew Turosky
Mark Burchett
Wick Hathaway

Class I, Water Plant

Operator

Clifford Davis
George Finney
Bill Joyce
Joseph Bruno

Class II, Lab Tech

Nicole Erkkila

Class II, Water Plant

Operator

Erica Czaplicki

Excavation and Trenching

By Steve Klemm, Administration Office

An excavation is a man-made trench, cut, cavity or depression in the ground that is formed by earth removal. This is a necessary action to repair Lake County Utilities (LCDU) underground water and sewer pipes. LCDU enforces that each of its team members follow all LCDU and OSHA/PERRP safety protocols. Here are some basic protocols to help prevent accidents:

- 1) Have trained persons on hand and available throughout the process to identify hazardous work conditions, take action or make corrective measures to eliminate potential hazards.
- 2) It is important that relevant utilities are identified and marked before commencing work (examples: gas, electric, cable, water, or sewer).
- 3) Classification of soil type and soil piles are kept a minimum of two feet away from excavation edges.
- 4) When an excavation is greater than four feet deep, a protective system is used. Depending on the situation, this simply means that the trench sides must be properly sloped, shored or shielded to prevent cave-ins.
- 5) The safety manager conducts random audits of work sites to ensure safety equipment is used and proper work/safety practices are being followed.
- 6) Wear the proper personal protective equipment and always provide a safe way to exit the trench.



For all of 2016
"Keep up the good work!"

Team Member Anniversaries

by Cindy Leonello, Administration Office

The list for team anniversaries from April to August

1 year:

- Ray Leggett 4/6/15
- Mark Kati 4/20/15
- Douglas DeBiase 5/4/15
- Tina Mustard 5/4/15
- Clifford Davis 6/29/15
- Erin Cogar 7/27/15
- Jason Cottrell 4/2/15
- Johnathon Cutlip 5/4/15
- Matthew Donovan 5/4/15
- Kari Janke 5/18/15
- James Koval 7/13/15
- Devin Daughters 8/10/15

5 Years:

- Jack Yahner 7/5/11
- Richard Inghram 8/15/11
- Michael Martin 7/18/11

10 Years:

- Joseph Abel 6/12/06
- Michael Erkkila 6/19/06

15 years:

- Angela Keck 7/16/01

20 years:

- Ronald Walker 8/12/1996

Newly Hired, March - June

by Cindy Leonello, Administration Office

Please join me in welcoming our new team members that were hired between March through June:

Matthew Turosky, hired March 7th

- Operator Trainee, GLK

Rylen Burnheimer, hired March 17th

- Operator Trainee, Madison Wastewater Plant

Steve Clucas hired March 31st

- System Maintenance, West End Service Center

Paul Markell hired June 13th

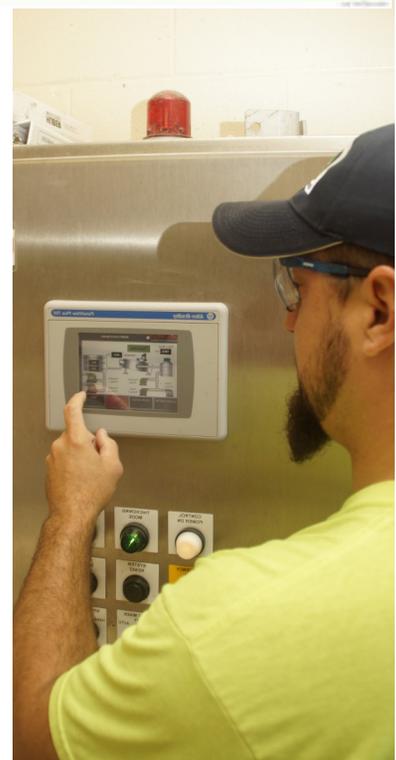
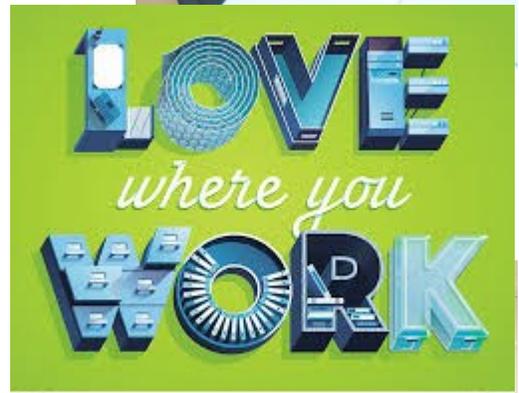
- Operator Trainee, Bacon Rd Water Treatment Plant

David Schick hired June 13th

- Public Service Coordinator, Administration Office

Armando Farinacci hired June 27th

- System Maintenance, West End Service Center



Lake County Utilities

Mission

Our mission is to supply safe drinking water to our homes, clean water to our rivers and lakes and prevent unnecessary fill to our land. This will be accomplished by striving to maintain a level of management and operating excellence recognized as the best in the utility industry.

Newsletter Information:

Brought to you by the Lake County Utilities

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Steve Klemm

Sarah Cerovski

Cindy Leonello

Nancy Hamblin

Corrine Spetrino

David Schick

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter or website please contact David Schick.

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Please like or follow us on social media. We want all those loving people around you to see the amazing things you do each work day.

Look for new photos, trivia, and more.

Like Us at **LakeCountyUtilities, LCDUOhio**

Or Follow at **LCDU_Ohio**

