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Utilities Project and Permit Tracking System

The LCDU Engineering Group and Lake County Information Technology (IT) joined their efforts to create, design, and implement a state of the art web based application using a database system. The end result of this project was that all of the information was consolidated into one database which multiple users can access.

For a number of years, the Engineering Group had many pockets of data that various staff stored on their individual work stations. Water and sewer information was on a stand alone system; other information was handwritten or on spreadsheets and in databases. It was often necessary to contact several people before finding the needed data.

A group was formed to centralize the data and decide how it was going to be organized: Josh Ellis from Customer Service, Jason Webster from IT, Eric Folkman from IT, Marina Tsentr from IT, and Dave Woodford from Engineering Inspection.

Databases were integrated into a new web application along with an excel spreadsheet which helps with the flow of water and sewer projects. This is extremely valuable for the Engineering Group as they can now bring up any project, know its current status, and view approved plans and critical data that has either been attached or scanned. One example of this is the ability to view and edit punch list items that are sent to the contractor for job completion.

The old system required an inspector to turn in a written permit. The new system allows the inspector to generate the permit in the field and it then becomes part of the permanent record. This creates better communication between all project coordinators, users and the public. The new database results in an efficient, streamlined system that enhances our customer service capabilities.

Future considerations for this new application include adding the Backflow Department so they can enter information into the system in "real time" as field investigations are completed. This will result in the Engineering Group having records that will be automatically be updated with information needed to help complete our projects.

Newsletter Committee:

- Kristen Berg
- Scott Cole
- Josh Ellis
- Mike Erkkila
- Toni Ice
- Tonya Reidy
- Missy Weiss

Please contact a member of the Newsletter Committee to provide ideas, suggestions and feedback for upcoming issues. We'd love to hear from you.



General Links:

- [Create New Water Project](#)
- [Create New Sanitary Project](#)

- [Current Water Projects](#)
- [Current Sanitary Projects](#)
- [Permanent Records](#)
- [Reports](#)
- [Search](#)
- [Administrative](#)

Submitted by: Dave Woodford, Inspector, Engineering Group



Meet Jim Novak

Jim is temporarily cross training with our department from the Lake County Building Inspection Department.

He is assisting the Engineering Group in developing our GIS application and will soon begin doing inspections at the new Kirtland Pump Station.

Where did you grow up and go to school?

I grew up in Kirtland and graduated from Kirtland High School.

Do you have family in the area?

I live with my three kids Heather 15, Brandon 13, and Daniel 10 in Mentor-on-the-Lake. My mom and dad still live in Kirtland, but my siblings, two brothers and one sister all live outside the area.

What do you like most about your work with LCDU?

I like the people I work with.

What would you say is your least favorite household chore?

Cooking because I'm not very good at it.

Do you have any pets?

I have 2 cats.

What's the best entertainment you've attended?

The World Series in Cleveland when we played the Yankees.

What are your favorite hobbies or interest?

I enjoy martial arts and I play guitar just for the fun of it.

What type of music do you like?

I like all types of music: hard rock, classic rock, blues, jazz.

What's currently your favorite TV show?

I mostly channel surf.

What's currently your favorite food?

Steak and sweet potatoes.

The 2009 LCDU Holiday Party Provides Games and Good Times

The annual LCDU Holiday Party was a huge success. It was held for the second year at the indoor sports park in Wiloughby.

92 people attended including 10 retirees and their spouses. The casual open house setting seems to be the ideal atmosphere, as there were employees from all locations in attendance. The menu included pizza, salad, wings, appetizers and desserts; all at an affordable cost. Keith McCloskey and Randy Rothlisberger organized the corn hole tournament. The winners of the corn hole tournament were Keith McCloskey and his wife Leilani. One of our retirees, Ed Toth, won the 50/50 raffle and Jami Abel and Maggie Cook were each winners of the \$50 gift cards.

Join in the fun at the LCDU Holiday Party in 2010. Contact Dee Hine or Jolene Ball with suggestions. Your feedback is always welcome. Hope to see you in December!

Submitted by: Jolene Ball, Engineering Office Manager

Tax Tip

IRS Withholding Calculator



The Withholding Calculator can help you determine whether you need to give your employer a new [Form W-4](#), *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate* to avoid having too much or too little Federal income tax withheld from your pay. You can use your results from the calculator to help fill out the form.

Who Can Benefit From The Withholding Calculator?

- Employees who would like to change their withholding to their tax refund or their balance due;
- Employees who may need to increase their withholding due to the [Making Work Pay](#) provision in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#), that caused changes to the federal income tax withholding tables and may result in too little being withheld;
- Employees whose situations are only approximated by the worksheets on the paper W-4 (e.g., anyone with concurrent jobs, or couples in which both are employed; those entitled to file as Head of Households; and those with several children eligible for the Child Tax Credit);
- Employees with non-wage income in excess of their adjustments and deductions, who would prefer to have tax on that income withheld from their paychecks rather than make periodic separate payments through the estimated tax procedures.

CAUTION: If you will be subject to alternative minimum tax, self-employment tax, or other taxes; or if any of your current jobs will end before the end of the year, you will probably achieve more accurate withholding by following the instructions in [Publication 919](#), *How Do I Adjust My tax Withholding?*

Tips for Using This Program

- Have your most recent pay stub handy.
- Have your most recent income tax return handy.
- Estimate values if necessary, remembering that the results can only be as accurate as the input you provide.

To Change Your Withholding:

1. Use your results from this calculator to help you complete a new [Form W-4](#), Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.
2. Submit the completed Form to your employer.

To access this calculator you can type [2010 withholding calculator](#) into your internet search engine or it is located at <http://www.irs.gov/individuals/page/0,,id=14806,00.html>

Source: www.IRS.gov

Employee Spotlight — Susie Brochak



Susie started in May, 1994 at the Gary L. Kron Water Reclamation Facility before coming to work at the Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2005. Susie previously worked at the hematology lab at the Geauga County Hospital while putting herself through college, eventually earning an Associates of Applied Science Degree from Tri-C. Her job duties include running laboratory tests on metals, suspended solids, ammonia, phosphorus, cyanide, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, fecal count, acid ratios, oil and grease, and Biological Oxygen Demands. She is responsible for preparing monthly reports for the Ohio EPA.

Susie has become a welcome addition to the Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant's staff.

Submitted by: Tom Hanes, Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent

Do you have family in the area?

I live with my husband in Madison, my mother lives in Mentor and my father lives in Euclid. My only sibling, a brother, lives in Florida.

Where did you grow up and go to school?

I grew up in Chardon and graduated from Chardon High School. I was a pom-pom girl for the Chardon Hilltoppers.

Do you collect anything?

I have been collecting antiques my entire life, mostly from the 1820's through the 1870's. My mother has been my inspiration in this endeavor. I hardly have anything new and mostly collect furniture, pictures, dolls, clocks, books and so on. The biggest antique I bought was my house, which was built in 1834.

What would you say is your least favorite household chore?

I hate vacuuming, but I love dusting. Considering that I have so many antiques that's a good thing!

Do you have any pets?

I have four cats; Jenny, Maggie, Sabrina and Samantha. I also have a Red Dun Quarter Horse named Buffy.

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

The most interesting place I have been is Hawaii. It is a beautiful place with all the different colored sand, beaches, volcanos, rainforests and waterfalls.

What's the best entertainment you've attended?

The Kentucky Derby. I love horses and it's great fun.

What are your favorite hobbies or interest?

I love animals and caring for the small horse farm where Buffy is stabled. I also model vintage clothing for Viva fashion shows, which sponsors battered women shelter's in Cleveland. And when I have spare time, I take my 1966 Ford Mustang convertible to car shows with my family and friends and cruise around in my 1983 Jeep Renegade.

Making a Difference

For the last nine years the Billing Department staff has organized a Chinese Raffle during the Christmas holiday season. This was the first year it was opened up to all County employees for donations and participation. All proceeds from the raffle are donated to charitable endeavors.

With the continued efforts of the Billing staff, other LCDU staff and county employees, we were able to obtain gift certificates, gift baskets and other merchandise from many merchants in the surrounding area. As members of the community, the Billing staff was honored to have had the opportunity to partner with so many giving people to make this event even more successful than years past.

We are happy to announce that \$615 was raised and the charity recipient was Miracle Revival Ministries. In addition, phone cards were purchased for the injured soldiers at the Walter Reed Hospital, who were not able to be with their families during the Holiday Season.

By participating in this event we are quickly reminded of our many blessings. We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for your support and donations that made this event such a huge success.

Submitted by: Connie Strickland, Billing Office Manager

According To...

The top five places to find gold in Ohio, According to Dave Bradshaw, Director of Solid Waste...



1. Sandy Creek in Carroll County, no specific locations
2. Stonelick Creek in Clermont County, adjacent to Anstaett Road, north of Owensville.
3. Brushy Fork in Clermont County, north of Owensville
4. Middle Fork of Little Beaver Creek in Mahoning County, about 1 mile east of Salem.
5. Deadmans Run in Richland County, adjacent to Bellville Road, north of Bellville.

All gold that has been found in Ohio is of the secondary or placer type. It is a long-accepted theory that the placer gold in the state originated in the igneous rocks of Canada (Canadian Shield) and was transported to Ohio during one or more episodes of Pleistocene glaciations. Ohio gold is always found in association with glacial deposits formed by meltwater from the glaciers.

Almost all gold recovered in Ohio is in the form of tiny, flattened flakes only a millimeter or so in diameter.

Recipe Corner

POP CAKE

1 Cake Mix
1 Can of Pop (Dark for Dark Cake Mixes and Clear for Light Cake Mixes)

Mix:

1 Cake Mix
1 Can of Pop

NOTE: These are the only ingredients needed!

Follow mixing and baking directions on box.

This recipe is great if you go to bake a cake and then discover that you do not have any eggs or oil.

Submitted by: Candi Coulter, Account Clerk, Fiscal Group



Lake County Solid Waste District Special Collection Data:

2009 Scrap Tire Collection

607 vehicles

3,467 tires

2008 Scrap Tire Collection

547 vehicles

3,140 tires

2007 Scrap Tire Collection

428 vehicles

2,494 tires

Thank you all for supporting and participating in the 2010 Safety Slogan Contest. We received nearly 30 creative entries this year. Thank you! Please help us in congratulating the following employees for their winning safety slogans:

3rd Place: Rich Soden, GLK - There are no shortcuts on our County roads to safety.

2nd Place: Missy Weiss, Fiscal Group - Do your LCDU work with pride - put safety in every stride.

2010 LCDU Safety Slogan Winner: Brian Cook, Engineering - **Safe Workers. Safe Service. Safe County.**

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Candi Coulter	4/4
Jeff Gatchel	4/7
Dale Moran	4/9
Randy Rothlisberger	4/10
Gerald Ondo	4/15
Timothy Logan	4/15
Barry Cvetko	4/20
Richard Damore	4/22
Melanie Rangel	4/23
Robert Taylor	4/24
Katie Graham	4/25
Mike Holly	4/27
Jack Sumrada	4/27

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Thomas Orosz	5/1
Debera Douglas	5/2
Mark Murphy	5/2
Rob Edmonds	5/6
Randall White	5/8
Dean Moore	5/13
William Kuzma	5/15
Keith Maddox	5/17
David Kenny	5/18
Ronald Walker	5/18
Carolyn Reed	5/19
Marie Millonzi	5/19
Butch Hanusosky	5/21
Edward Schwertner	5/21
Brad Pethel	5/21
Robert Bates	5/24
Sylvia Lindrose	5/25

Laurie Medlen	5/25
Barry Traxler	5/25
Anthony Maimone	5/30

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Robert Bradac	6/5
James Needler	6/11
Richard Soden	6/11
David Hutchinson	6/15
Trevor Weaver	6/18
Teresa Schnell	6/28

