



## Newsletter Team:

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## Security Improvement- Aquarius Water Plant

### Inside This Issue:

According To...	9
Asset Management	7
Birthdays	9
County-Wide Events	4
Department Updates	1, 8
Employee Recognition	4, 5
Employee Spotlight	8
Executive Director's Notes	2
New Employees	3, 7
Safety News	3
Subcommittee Reports	2, 7
Reports	
Upcoming Holidays	9

Like other utilities in the United States, our Department conducted a vulnerability assessment (VA) as required by the Public Health and Bioterrorism Act of 2002 for both of our water treatment plants. This is a comprehensive evaluation of our facilities that could be susceptible to potential threats and provide us with corrective actions to reduce the risk of serious consequences from adversarial acts.

Implementing the VA's recommendations has been a challenge for our department because of the considerable capital outlay and changes to policies & procedures to meet these recommendations.

One of the VA's recommendations was to improve our physical protection through a multiple barrier approach that included fencing and an access control system.

At the Aquarius Water Treatment Facility an access control system and a camera was installed in 2002. This system limits the access based on individual needs and responsibilities.

A standard for what we needed for fencing was determined with staff from the water plant & the distribution garage. Due to trees being so close to the old fence line it was decided that a secondary fence section was needed. We have currently completed the first phase of this project that included adding a second fence inside the perimeter of the North & West sides of our property.

This fence is 8 ft high with 3-strands of barbed wire. The second phase of this project will be completed in the spring of 2007. This phase will include an 8 ft high fence with 3-strands of barbed wire along the Northeast side of our property. Along the Southeast & South side of our property a razor wire will be added to the top of the existing fence. After these projects

are completed our site will be in compliance with the physical protection recommendations of the vulnerability assessment.

Despite the challenges posed by both the capital requirements and the changes in policies & procedures that are recommended in the VA, our Department is committed to ensuring the safety and security of both our customers and staff members.

**Submitted By: Jay Spetrino**



We need your help.  
Interested in writing an 'According To?'  
Contact any member of the Newsletter Team.

## Executive Director's Notes

*Wishing you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.*

**Sincerely,**

**Rick Martin**

### *Most Widely Spoken Languages In The World*

Chinese .....1,075,000,000 people who speak the language

English.....514,000,000

Hindustani.....496,000,000

Spanish.....425,000,000

Russian.....275,000,000

Arabic.....256,000,000

Bengali.....215,000,000

*Sources: Ethnologue, 13th edition, and Kent State Magazine*

## Written Correspondence Committee Update

Much work has been done to improve pieces of written correspondence in our Department. The best way that our committee can exemplify the work that has been completed is to provide a sample. The committee revised the "Initial Letter" to the "Improved Letter."



### *Initial Letter*

The management of the Lake County Solid Waste Facility requires planning for the timely submittal of applications to the Ohio EPA to ensure long term disposal availability. This letter shall serve as written notification of Lake County's intent to apply for a Permit to Install for a vertical expansion covering a portion of the existing Solid Waste Facility site. The application for a Permit to Install involves approximately 63 acres of the Solid Waste Facility which was originally permitted as a Solid Waste Facility in 1973 by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

This application does not include a request for an increase in the maximum daily waste limit. It will, if approved, add additional disposal capacity, thereby extending the useful life of the facility.

Site location map is enclosed for your information.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully,



### *Improved Letter*

We would like to inform you of our intent to apply for a change in our existing Permit to Install for vertical expansion at the Lake County Solid Waste Facility.

The 63 acres at the Solid Waste Facility was originally permitted in 1973 by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to be a maximum elevation of 718 feet. We are writing to the OEPA to request an increase in elevation of 117 feet. This will extend the useful life of the facility by providing additional disposal capacity. This application does not include a request for an increase in the maximum daily waste limit.

A site location map is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions, call XXXXXXXX at ###- ###-####.

Sincerely,

## Meet Our New Employee — Mike Erkkila

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

**A:** I was born and raised in Perry and I attended and graduated Perry High School. I'm also a graduate of Hiram College with a bachelors degree in Business Management.

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

**A:** I played football in college. I played for 4 years as middle linebacker for the Hiram Terriers. I was All-Conference Player and captain of the team for 3 of those 4 years. But I won't toot my own horn too much <laugh>...we were the worst team in the country. We literally only won 2 games in the 4 years that I played. We also held the longest losing streak in the country for 2 years.

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

**A:** Mostly the employees. Everyone is very easy to work with. It is a nice environment.

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

**A:** Since I am originally from Perry, the majority of my family still resides here.

**Q:** *Do you have any pets?*

**A:** Yes. I have two dogs. One is just a mutt and the other is a havanese (a breed from Cuba).

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

**A:** I studied culture and biology in Trinidad and Tobago for one month. That was an amazing experience as I was suddenly the minority. Most of the hosts from school were nice but the common person on the street had very bad feelings about how I appeared to them. They would taunt me and throw trash at me. It was an eye-opening experience.

**Q:** *What's your favorite music?*

**A:** I don't really have a favorite band or a favorite type of music. I like a mix of all types of music.

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

**A:** My current favorite show is House. I also enjoy watching the Browns and sports in general.

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

**A:** Well, I like to keep myself busy so I work on a farm in Madison (Woodworth Farm) after work. I'm just a farm hand and help out with whatever needs to be done.



**Mike Erkkila**

GLK

Laborer

## Safety News



*Do you have an idea to improve a safety process or procedure?*

The Executive Safety Committee welcomes any new safety ideas, suggestions or procedural changes. Contact your supervisor or Scott Cole (350-2645) to obtain an easy-to-follow form for submitting your suggestion. After the Safety Manager's review, you will have the opportunity to present your information at the Executive Safety Committee bi-monthly meeting.

Previous approved suggestions include the lime-green t-shirts worn in water service, consistent Department-specific electrical wire color-coding and the 2006 safety recognition award.

Your input is important!

**Submitted By: Scott Cole**

## Making A Difference In The Lives Of Others

Debera Douglas began employment with the Lake County Department Utilities on October 24, 2005. Her bubbly personality immediately became a pleasant presence to the Department. I was recently made aware that Debera not only shares her zest for life within the Department but in other areas of the community. The following information documents Debera's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. In Debera's own words:

"In 1995 I was elected to the office of Secretary for the Lake County Branch NAACP and at the time never imagined that I would yet be involved (11 years later) in this mission. But I feel strongly that this experience is one of my "Life Assignments" everyone has a purpose in life and I hope that my small contribution will help to make a difference in someone's life. As secretary I have been involved in every aspect of the local branch, from assisting the elderly, to getting out and voting, to fair housing issues that affect people of all colors, race and ethnicity. Some people have the misconception that this organization is only for African Americans. Not so, our motto is "Protecting the Rights of All People". Yes we are the oldest

civil rights organization in the world and we will continue to stand for justice and equality. The Lake County Branch NAACP prides itself on our diversity.

What I enjoy the most about working with this organization is the opportunities it affords to meet while ministering to the needs of so many people.

I work closely with the education committee assisting with fundraisers to raise money to provide scholarships to students who can use the financial help in order to pursue an education. We assist in several programs such as Big Brothers & Sisters of Lake County, and Catholic Charities of Lake County. Just recently we have formed a partnership with the Painesville City Schools and University Hospitals to provide apprenticeship programs for graduating seniors. We believe that it does take a village to raise a child. I am currently organizing along with the Marine Corps our annual Christmas Toys for Tots Program with the focus on children whose parents are incarcerated.

These children have been placed in unfortunate situations not by their own accord that has left many of them lonely, broken and lost. My goal this Christmas is to make a difference in the lives of 100 children in Lake County."

On September 15, 2006 Debera received a certificate of recognition honoring her for her outstanding efforts as an advocate for social justice and as a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Debera has played a major role in improving the quality of life for many citizens of Lake County. Debera has served faithfully as Branch Secretary of the Lake County NAACP where she has offered her time and talents as a community service volunteer.

Please help me in Congratulating Debera on her recognition for her contributions to the community and in making a difference in the lives of others .

**Submitted By: Connie Strickland**

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## County-Wide Events For more information and events visit <http://www.lakevisit.com/events.html>

### January:

13th - Lake County Chili Open - Blackbrook Golf Course  
15th - Discovery Days - Lake Farmpark  
17th - Beach Party Family Night - Painesville YMCA  
20th - Winter Book Sale - Mentor Public Library  
21st - Broken Wheel Squares - Student level square dancing - Kirtland Community of Christ Church  
28th - Nordic Flurry Cross-Country Ski Race - Chapin Forest Reservation  
29th - Feb 25 - Lake and Geauga Junior and Senior HS Art Show - Lakeland Community College

### February:

2 -4 - Andrews School Horse Show  
3rd - Denny Carleton & Friends Coffeehouse Series - The Fine Arts Association - Willoughby  
17th - Presidential Gala - Holiday Inn LaMalfa  
19th - Discovery Days - Lake Farmpark  
22 - 24 - The 35th Annual Lakeland Community College Jazz Festival

### March:

3rd and 10th - Ice Wine Tasting - Grand River Cellars  
10th and 11th - Maple Sugaring Weekend - Lake Farmpark  
18th - Winners of the Young Artists Concerto Concert - Lakeland Community College  
24th and 25th - Lake County Cygnets Synchronized Swim Team Water Show - Painesville YMCA  
25th - Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio Annual Bowl for Kids' Sake - Ernst Lanes  
25th - The Lakeland Civic Chorus Spring Semester Concert - Lakeland



## Employee Recognition - Congratulations!!!



**Barry Cvetko**  
West End Service Center  
25 Years of Service



**CJ Land**  
West End Service Center  
25 Years of Service



**Toni Ice**  
Aquarius Water Treatment Plant  
25 Years of Service

## Customer Service Group

The Customer Service Group which is facilitated by Jack Sumrada meets monthly and consists of eleven members from various departments. Our eighteenth meeting was held on November 16, 2006. At this meeting, Jerry Ondo and Scott McGlothin of the GLKRF facilitated a PowerPoint presentation on pretreatment compliance. Their main focus was to educate our staff on the importance of mercury awareness in the environment. Rick Douglas from the Bacon Road Water Plant discussed the operations of the east sub district water plant at the July training meeting and John Diemert continued training with a presentation of how our water supply goes from the Bacon Road Water Plant out into the east end distribution system.

We are currently working on revising a customer inquiries list that will help staff direct calls to the appropriate personnel.

The group participated in a marketing survey given by Executive Communications Inc., a public relations firm. We were asked to answer a series of questions related to our industry in an effort to gather an in-depth understanding of what we felt customers valued most from their experience with our Department. Feedback from the survey was tabulated and reported back to the group.

We continue to strive for excellent customer service by providing customers with accurate information and contact customers for follow-up in a timely and professional manner.

**Submitted By: Dee Hine**

Go for green! When buying salad greens, select those deepest in color - dark greens and reds. Why: The dark color means beta-carotene and other carotenoids, vitamin C, folic acid, calcium, and other nutrients are present.

Fiber is fine! Load up on whole-grain breads, rolls and cereals, as well as brown rice and dried beans.

Remember that a standard serving of meat or fish should fit on a pack of playing cards.

**Submitted By: Tonya Reidy**

Source: [www.nwhealth.edu](http://www.nwhealth.edu)

## Where's Gregor?

Gregor Okicki was hired as a swing shift operator at the Greater Mentor Wastewater Treatment Plant (Gary L. Kron Water Reclamation Facility) in August 1985. He performed the duties of Safety Manager from April 1998 until his retirement on June 25, 2004 after 19 years of service with the Lake County Department of Utilities. Greg served as a Wickliffe City Councilman for 13 years and retired from that office in June 2004.

As for the title "Where's Gregor", I had little difficulty locating him. Over the past 124 weeks since his retirement he has telephoned me to demand that I buy him lunch, stating; "I'm hungry, I'm retired and I'm out of cash." It has cost me nearly \$1,500 to feed him on a weekly basis.

The Newsletter Committee asked me to "track down" Gregor and interview him about life after retirement. I accepted

the request to question the former employee at our most recent luncheon. He looked up from his full rack of ribs with a barbeque-smeared-snarl as I told him that there may be a few people interested in reading about his retirement years. Sucking on a rib bone he said, "Ask away." I thanked Gregor for being so cooperative.

Gary: How do you spend your days since retirement?

Gregor: For a few hours each day I just sit in my bean bag chair, eating Cheetos and watch marathon reruns of "Mash."

Gary: Have you taken up any new hobbies?

Gregor: I cannot discuss my hobbies with you, at

least not in a newsletter interview.

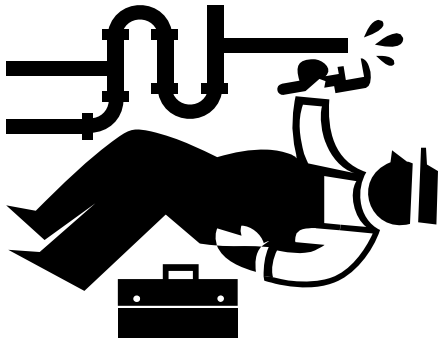
I told Gregor that I would send him a copy of the published newsletter. He said, "What do you mean send it? Just bring it next time you buy me lunch."

**Submitted By: Gary Long**



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## Asset Management



This is the third article describing the Asset Management Plan for the Utilities Department. The first article discussed what Asset Management is and how it can be useful. The second article described data gathering, the first step in implementing an Asset Management Plan. The Next step is evaluation of the data collected. This will help us determine what projects will have the most impact in improving our system.

Using the data collected, assets are evaluated based on a number of criteria including: pipe condition, age of the pipe, size of the pipe, how many breaks, water quality, flow capacity, etc. All of these are considered when determining what project

will have the greatest improvement to our system. We can rate the project based on the above criteria and determine how it compares to the other projects under consideration. It could be a project we start immediately or it may be scheduled for the future. This ranking system provides an "apples to apples" comparison. The criterion listed above is used for the replacement of a water pipe but this method can be applied to any asset.

In the past we have used single arbitrary measurements to determine what needs to be replaced. Just because an asset is "old" does not mean it needs to be replaced. Evaluating projects using a multiple criteria comparison approach ensures we are getting the most out of our rehabilitation and replacement budget.

The Asset Management Plan provides a strategy for cost effective rehabilitation and replacement.

The Operations, Engineering and Finance departments must work together to collect and then evaluate data for a successful Asset Management Plan.

**Submitted By: Randy Rothlisberger**

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## Meet Our New Employee — Anna Knapp

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

A: I was born and raised in Chardon. I also attended and graduated Chardon High School. After graduating I went into the U.S. Navy active reserves for 3 years.

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

A: Nope. I didn't play any sports or any musical instruments.

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

A: I like the contact with people. I am a people person so dealing with people, including my co-workers, seems to be my favorite thing about my job.

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

A: I have a husband and twin girls. My parents and siblings are also close by. I have a son who lives in Harrisburg and my other son lives in Virginia Beach.

*Q: Do you have any pets?*

A: I have two cats. Actually I had one cat, and then my son moved and he couldn't take his cat with him so now I take care of my grand kitty.

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

A: I would have to say Annapolis, Maryland is the most interesting place that I have been. It is full of history and it is in close proximity to other interesting cities. The only down side of Annapolis is that there are too many people there.

*Q: What's your favorite music?*

A: I enjoy listening to easy listening or light rock.

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

A: Well, I would have to say Grey's Anatomy and of course Desperate House-

wives.

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

A: I like going home and spending time with my sixteen year-old twin girls.



**Anna Knapp**

Billing

Account Clerk

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## Rules and Regulations Committee

The Rules and Regulations Committee has completed this year's 2006 review. The Committee will meet next year to review any new submittals received and to continue to improve the Rules and Regulations.

**Submitted By: Tonya Reidy**



## Employee Spotlight

Dave Kenny  
Supervisor



Twenty-one years ago, Dave Kenny applied for a meter reading position in our Department. Dave was working another job at the time and would stop by almost daily to check the status of his application. His persistence paid off, showing his level of interest, and he was hired. After working three years as a meter reader, Dave applied for a position as an operator at the Aquarius Water Plant. He was all but accepted for the position when he was asked to consider running our meter department. Well, 18 years later, he's still running the meter division and doing a fine job of it.

In his spare time Dave likes to cruise the streets on his motorcycle with his girlfriend, Karen.

After 21 years of working with Dave, I consider him more than just an employee, but a friend. I hope the feeling is mutual, even though I keep stealing his employees to fill openings in my half of the Department.

**Submitted By: Phil Peluso**

### ***Do you like to collect anything?***

No, not really. I have a spare bedroom full of "stuff" but I don't collect anything in particular. I do have more guitars than I need (about 8 or 10 and I sold some already). I took lessons years ago and just kept buying new guitars thinking that with each one it would be motivation enough to learn to play. So I have a lot of guitars and a lot of guitar literature but I can't play.

### ***Do you have any hobbies or interest?***

I have a Harley Davidson I like to spend time on. I also have a 24' Searay (flat bridge with twin engines). Both toys are weather-dependent but the thing with the boat is that it can be nice weather and the water might not be nice. I quit riding in 1998 and I got the itch again just recently started riding.

### ***If we were to go to your house right now, what would we find in your refrigerator?***

I think there is some turkey soup...maybe a bowl or two. About 4 or 5 bottles of beer, 1 bottle of wine that somebody gave me, a couple of cans of fruit, some cranberry juice and your usual condiments. The freezer has ice and boneless chicken breasts in it.

### ***What do you like most about your job?***

I like that I get to interact with customers. Most of the time they are satisfied and that's what I enjoy the most. I really enjoy when a customer calls and says that someone from our Department was at their house and that they did a great job.

### ***Do you have any family in the area?***

Yes. I have a stepfather, 3 boys (taxidermist, convenient type of store owner and a dentist), 7 grandchildren and a sister (Ashtabula) all in the area.

### ***Where did you grow up and go to school?***

Well, in grade school we moved around a lot. We lived in Geneva, Madison and North Madison. Geneva is where I would say that I grew up since I spent most of the time there.

### ***What would you say is your least favorite household chore?***

I don't really dislike it but I do put off dusting and vacuuming. I don't mind loading but I don't like unloading the dishwasher. Let's just say that I don't dislike anything enough to pay someone else to do it for me.

## Get Healthy Lake County "B Fit 4 Life" Corporate Challenge

We are looking into forming an internal fitness program in the future. Please contact Scott Cole (440) 350-5706 if you have any ideas or suggestions.



## Upcoming Holidays

New Year's Day - January 1st

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday -  
January 15th

Presidents' Day - February 19th



## According To...

According to Mike Stephens, the top five outings for families with young children (within easy driving distance) are:

1. **Funtime** - 7254 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, OH - [www.funtimefun.com](http://www.funtimefun.com) - Four huge inflatable playgrounds with slides, mazes, etc. Pizza and snack shop. Your kids will sleep well.
2. **Pioneer Waterland** - 10661 Kile Road, Chardon, OH - [www.pioneerwaterland.com](http://www.pioneerwaterland.com) - Several waterslides, dry slides and pools, go-karts, batting cages, driving ranges, mini golf, etc. Once again, zzzzz
3. **Chuck E Cheese** - 8000 Plaza Blvd., Mentor, OH - [www.chuckecheese.com](http://www.chuckecheese.com) - Children's arcade, rides, games and a pizza shop.
4. **Pymatuning Deer Park** - 4084 Unger Road, Jamestown, PA - [www.pymatuningdeerpark.com](http://www.pymatuningdeerpark.com) - Hands-on animal park. Feed all the animals from goats to lions. Big petting zoo. Watch the monkey, he'll try to steal your kid(s).
5. **Great Wolf Lodge** - 4600 Milan Road, Sandusky, OH - [www.greatwolf lodge.com](http://www.greatwolf lodge.com) - Indoor water park, nice rooms, in-house restaurants and great weekend packages. A little further and higher priced but makes a great family getaway.

## Happy Birthday

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

William Munger	1/2
Gary Long	1/5
Michele Mallory	1/14
Shawn White	1/15
Joshua Ellis	1/17
Carol Lindrose	1/24
Scottie Burke	1/27
Robert Baytosh	1/31
Joseph Fedor	1/31

### 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
Warren Zorn	2/11
Steve Doremus	2/13
David Hernandez	2/14
Phillip Spencer	2/16
Linda Millberg	2/16
John Thompson	2/16
Douglas Bradley	2/18
Paulette Chandler	2/21
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



Sorry we missed you...Happy Birthday Clint Gockerell 10/15

**Please contact a member of the Newsletter Team if you wish to have your name removed from birthday announcements.**