





Newsletter Committee

Kristen Berg  
Scott Cole  
Josh Ellis  
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Toni Ice  
Joe Misosky  
Tonya Reidy

Inside This Issue:

According To...	7
Birthdays	7
Department Updates	2, 4 5, 6
New Employees	6
Retired Employee	3
Events	3
Upcoming Holidays	7



Volume 3, Issue 4

December 2008

GLK's Improved Grit Removal System

Wastewater treatment is a series of interactive processes utilizing physical, chemical and biological properties of matter to return clean, safe water to the environment. Each process uses specialized equipment. During preliminary treatment, abrasive grit is mechanically removed and transferred to grit tanks by a conveyor system. In a recent equipment upgrade, a Spirac conveyor system was installed. This upgrade is expected to improve treatment and reduce costs. Here's how.

What is grit? Why is it removed? What is a grit tank? Why change conveyor systems?

Grit is composed of small discrete particles of mostly inorganic materials (road ash, sand, dirt, soot, and gravel) that enter the collection system through manholes and cracked or broken pipes. Flowing water containing grit acts as coarse sand paper. If grit enters process control equipment such as pumps, flow meters, and transfer piping, extensive abrasion damage results. Repairs are costly. Grit must be completely removed in preliminary treatment.

As wastewater enters the facility, plate screens remove large debris. These screenings are handled separately. The screened water then flows into the grit tanks. Grit tanks are large rectangular concrete tanks designed to slow the influent flow of wastewater to about 1 foot per second. At this velocity, the grit is no longer carried along and can settle to the bottom of the tank. The smaller, lighter organic particles are carried further downstream to primary and secondary treatment.

The grit tank floor is sloped toward a trough. The settled grit slides down the slope into the trough. The Spirac conveyor is a cork screw device located in the trough. A direct drive motor turns this screw at 6 RPM and pulls the settled grit along with some of the wastewater through the trough and into the grit pump. This specially hardened pump transfers the grit to a cyclone separator. This device uses centrifugal force to dewater the collected grit. The water enters the primary treatment stream; the grit is collected.

The dewatered grit drops into a grit washer. This does not mean the grit is washed prior to disposal. Rather, the term implies that the grit is washed from the treatment system. The grit washer is a device that pushes the dewatered grit into the grit pan (dumpster). When the pan is full, it is taken to the landfill.

The conveyor system in use before the upgrade used a chain to connect the motor to the collection screw. In this chain-drive system, the chain was only as strong as the weakest link. This chain was very long, and each link had to break sometime. The grit removal system was constantly breaking down to the chagrin of operators and maintenance crews.

The Spirac with its direct-drive gear reduction assembly is expected to reduce down time, save maintenance costs, and prevent grit-induced wear and tear in expensive primary and secondary treatment process equipment. Treatment is thereby improved at a lower cost.

Submitted By: Mike Melnyk, GLK Chief Operator  
& Joe Misosky, GLK Lab Supervisor



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## LAKE COUNTY EVENTS

Take a look at all the great events that Lake County has to offer this spring.  
Go to:  
<http://www.lakevisit.com/events.html>

### Great Teamwork to Repair the Transmission Main

The 30" transmission main, located on the corner of Lost Nation Road and Aquarius Parkway, was repaired on October 21<sup>st</sup> by the distribution maintenance crews. The maintenance crew had never repaired a water main of this size. Over the years the main had become oval shaped, the original parts were not immediately available, and the parts were very cumbersome to maneuver in such a small space.

In order to complete this repair quite a few departments working for the Lake County Commissioners and the city of Willoughby were called upon for assistance. The Emergency Management Agency, The Information Technology Department, Willoughby Fire and Police Departments along with the water, sewer and solid waste divisions played a major role in this repair.

The Utilities Department requested a reverse 911 call be sent out by the Lake County Emergency Management Agency to notify customers of the temporary loss of service. The Information Technology Department posted the water use advisory on the Lake County website and the Meter and Quality Assurance divisions hand delivered notices and the local media was notified via fax, before and after the repair, to keep all customers informed. The city of Willoughby posted the water use advisory on the local cable station and on their website and offered other assistance if needed.

The distribution maintenance crew, which included Tom Hillwig, Barry Traxler, Bill Kuzma, Brian Rihtar, Tony Maimone, Mike Stephens and other utilities employees worked diligently through the night to repair the main. Water service was restored to all affected customers by 6:30 AM.

The crew did a great job in repairing this vital piece of county infrastructure.

Thank you to all who participated in this repair.

**Submitted By: John Diemert, Distribution Systems Coordinator**



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Upcoming Holidays

- January 1st – New Years Day
- January 19th- Martin Luther King, Jr's B-Day
- February 16th— Presidents' Day

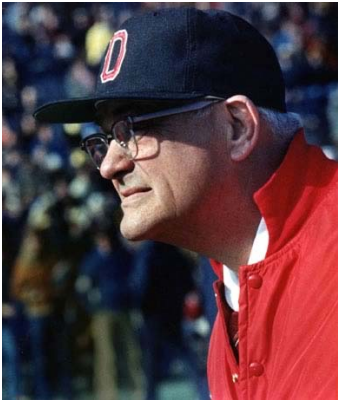


According To...

According to Dave Woodford, the five best Ohio State University football coaches of all time are...

1. Woody Hayes— Head Coach, 1951—1978
2. Jim Tressel— Head Coach, 2001—Present
3. Paul Brown—Head Coach, 1941—1943
4. Lou Holtz—Assistant Coach, 1968
5. Earl Bruce—Head Coach, 1978—1988

Note: All 5 coaches had successful seasons with the Bucks, clobbering the team from up North.



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
Phil Thompson	2/8
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
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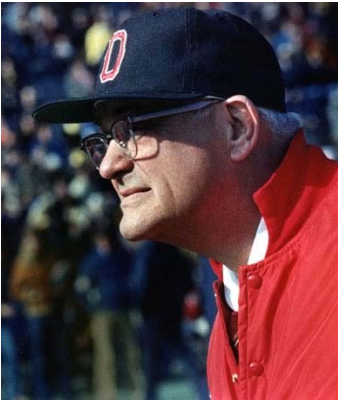


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## Home of Warrior Care

The Walter Reed Army Medical Center is the hub of the Walter Reed Health Care System. Walter Reed provides comprehensive health care for more than 150,000 soldiers, other service members, family members and retirees.

Many individuals have been touched by this war due to a family member or friend serving in the armed forces. At the Billing Office Christmas party, the staff conducts a white elephant raffle and donates all of the proceeds to a charity of their choice. In 2006, the staff began contributing phone cards to the soldiers at the Walter Reed Medical Facility. In a desire to honor the soldiers on a continuing basis, the staff decided to maintain donations throughout the year; a donation from a customer was received as well.

Sometimes we forget what our soldiers have gone through to protect our freedom. As they lay there wounded and unable to have their family with them during their recovery, the phone cards provide a means of communication with their loved ones. This gesture is a small token of our appreciation for what they have done for us.

There are literally hundreds of opportunities to support our soldiers recovering at Walter Reed as well as those who are actively deployed. America Supports You (<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil>) is an official Department of Defense site that can help groups and individuals find the best way to support our military men and women.

*Submitted by: Connie Strickland, Billing Supervisor*

## Meet Our New Employee — Joel Jernejcic

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

A: I grew up in the area and attended Kirtland High School.

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

A: I like the daily challenges, working outdoors and I enjoy working with people.

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

A: Yes. I am one of ten and we all live in Lake County. I also have two daughters.

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

A: I would have to say the Hoover Dam. The technology they used to build the dam was very creative.

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

A: I enjoy watching House, 24 and Fringe.

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

A: Definitely spending time with my family. I also like to go hunting and spending time outdoors.

Q: *What is your favorite food?*

A: Steak.



**Joel Jernejcic**  
**WESC**  
**Supervisor**

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# Retired Employee—Marlene Smith

In October, 1969 Marlene Smith was hired by the LCDU as an Account Clerk. In November 1999, after thirty years of service, Marlene retired as an Engineering Assistant. Departments were arranged a bit differently in those years. Everything was housed together and many of the duties were combined. We caught up with Marlene and here's what she had to say....

Q: So, is retirement everything it's cracked up to be?

A: Oh yes! I'm glad I'm retired. It was a long time coming!

Q: Are you keeping busy?

A: Busy? All I do is work! Just caring for the home and the landscaping is a full time job! I recently won an award for having the best landscaped yard in Madison Village. Very enjoyable.

Q: You have won a prize for the best landscaped yard in Madison Village.

A: Yes I have. Very enjoyable.

Q: How has your family adapted to you being home more?

A: I have more time for them, and I love it, but they use it all! And then want more! I had to get a part time job for some peace and quiet!

Q: How do you like your part time job?

A: It is so very rewarding! I am certified as a Care Provider by the Lake County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. I've been caring for a young man for 3 years now. This is probably the most rewarding thing I've done in my life. Just watching him grow in confidence and independence is such a good feeling.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to say?

A: Retirement is great although I miss the people. Retirement gives you a chance to do more of the things you enjoy most without worrying about a regular income. All the best to everyone!

**Submitted By: Joe Misosky, GLK Lab Supervisor**



Please help us in congratulating Gary Long on his first published book,  
The Journey Home.

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## You Tell

I noticed the fellow seated next to me seated at a favorite sports eatery one day after work. He was a big, rustic, man with dried mud sprinkled liberally under his seat; must be a tradesman I mused.

The man (we'll call him Joe, Joe Contractor) offered to buy me a refreshment as we struck up a casual conversation. This is one of the best things about a sports eatery - easy conversation. As frequently is the case, the topic turns to what we do for a living. Joe was indeed a construction worker, a subcontractor. When he found out that I work for the Lake County Department of Utilities, his eyes lit up, and he excitedly said that he has to tell me this story.

So the story goes...Late one evening just a couple weeks ago, Joe had to replace a section of open trench pipe. He arrived on site and was disappointed to find that the section had yet to be isolated. A relatively short job looked like it was going to take a lot longer. He dialed the LCDU contact phone number.

To Randall's surprise, his contact showed up in minutes! "He was with his wife and they were obviously dressed to go out to dinner. But they stayed the entire time until I was finished! He was so polite and friendly and helpful! I felt bad to have spoiled his evening. He said I didn't, not to worry about it, but I know I did. I have never dealt with someone so friendly and helpful in that situation before. I'll never forget it!"

Wow! What a story, I responded. "This is so pleasing to hear because this is the new face of the LCDU. We want to be as customer- friendly and helpful as we can. It is so encouraging to know it is having a positive effect."

"If this is indeed the new face of Lake County," Randall replied, "you have already taken huge steps in that direction!"

I knew immediately that this story had to be told. Ed Schwertner never told anyone he did this. And now the world knows. All because I was seated at a favorite sports eatery one day enjoying a burger and a conversation with a stranger.

***Submitted by: Joe Misosky, Lab Supervisor, GLK***

## Rules and Regulations Committee Update

The Rules and Regulations committee has completed the 2008 revisions/changes. These changes will be effective January 1, 2009. The Committee is now accepting any changes or additions for our 2009 review.

***Submitted By: Tonya Reidy, Engineering Assistant***



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***Submitted By: Tonya Reidy, Engineering Assistant***



## NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner

The photos below were taken at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lake County Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner. It's a nice gala affair with county and community involvement. This year Connie Strickland was honored for her hard work and dedication to "Coaches Corner" a home for homeless teens. Check out the website by going to: [www.coachescornerhome.net](http://www.coachescornerhome.net). Lake County Commissioner Dan Troy introduced Wayne Dawson from Fox 8 News as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Lake County Commissioner Bob Aufuldish presented a resolution to the Lake County Branch NAACP for their 50th Anniversary and in recognition for their service in the community. Judges Klammer, Mitrovich and Cicconetti were also honored for their service to Lake County. Seven students received scholarships from the NAACP, Lake County Branch.

**Submitted By: Debera Douglas, Billing Account Clerk**



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**Submitted By: Debera Douglas, Billing Account Clerk**



## Recipe—Italian Sausage Soup

1 lb turkey Italian sausage links (cut into pieces)  
 2 cups broccoli flowerets  
 1 cup mostaccioli pasta  
 2 1/2 cups water  
 1/2 leaf of dried basil  
 1/4 teaspoon pepper  
 1 can whole peeled tomatoes  
 1 can vegetable classics french onion soup  
 Bring all ingredients to a boil and cook until and pasta is soft.  
 Serve and enjoy!



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