

THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES

SEWER

SOLID WASTE

WATER

# Underground News

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## Happy 30th Anniversary LCDU!

By: Matt Armand, Main Office

On March 15, 1985, Lake County Commissioners Michael Coffey, John Platz and Daniel Supanick adopted a resolution creating the Lake County Department of Utilities. The newly established "LCDU" would encompass operations and employees of the Sanitary Engineer, including Divisions of Water, Wastewater & Solid Waste.

Although the Lake County Department of Utilities as it is known today was formally named in 1985, our operations have been in existence since the 1920's. During its early years, the LCDU was known as the Lake County Sewer District, and it consisted of all of the unincorporated areas of Lake County which included most of the political subdivisions within the County. The principal functions of the department at that time were to operate and maintain a water distribution system in the area of Mentor City, Mentor-on-the-Lake (Mentor Township), and Madison Township. Over the years, LCDU began expanding its infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population.

The original Greater Mentor Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1964 as part of an extensive Lake County sewage improvement plan. At the time, it serviced Cities of Mentor and eastern Willoughby. In 1971, secondary treatment units and additional sludge handling facilities were constructed. During these improvements, the service area was expanded to include portions of Painesville and Concord Townships.

During the early 1970's, planning for the eastern Lake County water system began. A report was published in 1979 outlining a plan for water treatment and distribution for the area. After approval of the report by the County and by Ohio EPA, detailed design of the recommended facility began in early 1980. Bids were taken in December, 1980, and construction began in January, 1981. The treatment facility was completed in July, 1982, and after thorough testing, the plant began processing drinking water for consumption in August, 1982.

It was also in the late 1970's that numerous engineering studies were conducted to investigate the feasibility of a new area-wide water supply and distribution system to serve the citizens of western Lake County. As a result, officials from Lake County and seven western Lake County communities began concentrating efforts towards the realization of a new water supply and distribution system. Construction of the Lake County West Subdistrict Water Treatment Plant began in February of 1982, and the plant, better known as Aquarius, became operational and began producing finished water on January 1, 1985.

In December of 1975, the Department of the Lake County Sanitary Engineer employed approximately 70 people. The Department was responsible for assisting the Board of County Commissioners in their responsibilities in operating sanitary sewage collection and disposal facilities, water distribution systems, and solid waste disposal facilities. The Department of The Lake County Sanitary Engineer had an operating budget of approximately \$2.1 million per year, and the principal source of revenue was sewer service charges and tap-in charges.

Whether referred to as the Lake County Sewer District or the Department of the Lake County Sanitary Engineer, one thing for certain is that LCDU has ALWAYS performed a vital role of service in the greater community. Today, the LCDU has roughly 180 employees who maintain approximately 550 miles of water main, 800 miles of sanitary sewer main, and a 450-acre solid waste facility that collects over 800 tons of waste per day. Our roughly 40,000 water customers receive clean, safe drinking water with a turn of the faucet at any hour of the day; and our 40,000 sewer customers know that their wastewater is transported and treated with the highest standards of quality to ensure that our environment and natural resources are always protected. With the highest degree of courtesy, integrity, and professionalism, LCDU is proud to celebrate 30 years of excellence—**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY LCDU!**



# A trip down memory lane

Commissioners' Office, Lake County  
Painesville, Ohio, March 15, 1985

The Board of County Commissioners in and for Lake County, Ohio, met this day in regular adjourned session with the following members present:

Messrs: Coffey, Platz and Supanick

Mr. Platz presented the following resolution and moved its adoption.

**RESOLUTION CREATING THE LAKE COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this resolution were taken in an open meeting of this Board of County Commissioners, and that all the deliberations of this Board of County Commissioners, and of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Revised Code, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Lake County Commissioners has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Lake County to create a Department of Utilities, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Utilities will encompass the operations and employees of the Sanitary Engineer, including the Divisions of Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners, in and for Lake County, Ohio, hereby creates the Lake County Department of Utilities, said Department to encompass the operations and employees of the Sanitary Engineer, including the Divisions of Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the Lake County Auditor and the Department of Utilities.

Mr. Supanick seconded the resolution and the roll being called upon its adoption, the vote resulted as follows:

"AYES": Messrs: Coffey, Platz and Supanick

"NAYS": None

Resolution adopted,  
John S. Crocker, Clerk

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

I, John S. Crocker, duly appointed Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the said Board on March 15, 1985 and recorded in the Commissioners' Journal, Volume AA-H1.

WITNESS my hand this 15th day of March, 1985 at Painesville, Ohio.

*Thelma F. Estrander*  
John S. Crocker, Clerk *Asst. Clerk*  
Board of Commissioners in  
and for Lake County, Ohio

On March 15, 1985, Lake County Commissioners Michael Coffey, John Platz and Daniel Supanick adopted this resolution, which formally created the Lake County Department of Utilities.

## Continuous Improvement

By: Rick Martin, Main Office



GOOD is the enemy of GREAT. Often times there is a tendency to avoid striving for *great* because *good* is “good enough.” The concept of *continuous improvement*, however, encourages people to dismiss this myth by systematically performing small, incremental changes in order to improve

long-term efficiency and quality. No matter how long you have been doing something, there is always room for growth and

progress. Although improving a single procedure, streamlining a single process, or eliminating a single problem may seem insignificant at first glance, if the habit is repeated consistently, major improvements are achieved. While the concept of continuous improvement is often discussed in terms of work and business, it is also applicable to life in general. In work and in life, always try to be better today than you were yesterday, and better tomorrow than you are today. Never demand perfection; but insist upon continuous improvement. Strive to improve always and in all ways—and remember, improvement begins with “I.”

## Credit card roll-out

By: Cindy Leonello, Main Office

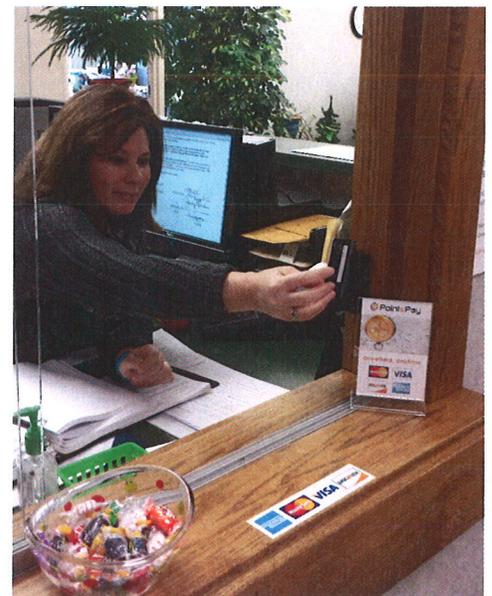


In response to customer input, Lake County has contracted with Point & Pay as the vendor to begin accepting all major credit cards- Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Credit Card payments can be made at the Customer Service Office at 125 East Erie Street or the second floor Administration office. Customers can also pay directly on-line when viewing their account.

Pay by Phone is also another payment option now available. If a customer wishes to make a payment by phone, the number is 1-888-891-6064.

The account number is all that is needed to initiate the transaction. There is a small convenience fee of \$2.00 or 2.5% per transaction.

This new method of accepting payment is secure, fast and convenient. Connie Strickland, the Billing Supervisor, said the process has been running smoothly. Many customers have viewed their accounts online and made payments. Information about credit card payments will be included on future billing statements.



## Special Collections

By: Nancy Hamblin, Solid Waste

The Lake County Department of Utilities has always maintained an approach of being a good steward to the environment. Consistent with our mission of preventing unnecessary fill to our land, the LCDU offers the following special collections for the residents of Lake County:

### Computer Collection April 25, 2015

- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (no fee)
- Lake County Fairgrounds Commercial Building (1301 Mentor Ave, Painesville 44077)
- Acceptable items: Home computer equipment including CPU's and monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, modems and speakers. Cell phones are also accepted.
- NO televisions, microwave ovens, typewriters, DVD players, cameras or VCRs.



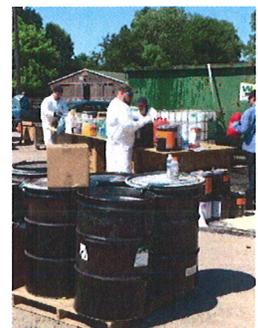
### Scrap Tire Collection May 2, 2015

- Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (nominal fee)
- Lake County Fairgrounds south entrance (Enter via Mentor Ave, 1301 Mentor Ave, Painesville 44077)
- Up to 6 tires without rims will be accepted at no charge
- Additional tires without rims (\$2 each)
- Tires with rims (\$4 each)
- Oversized tires (\$10 each)



### Household Hazardous Waste Collection June 6, 2015 and September 26, 2015

- Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (no fee)
- Lake County Fairgrounds (1301 Mentor Ave, Painesville 44077)
- Acceptable items: Household Cleaners & Solvents, Thinners, Kerosene, Turpentine, Lighter Fluid, Strippers, Used Motor Oil, Diesel Fuel, Gasoline, Coolants, Antifreeze, Grease, Oil-based Paints, Varnish, Shellacs, Stains, Aerosols, Polyurethanes, Primers, Grout, Liquid/Solid Pool Lawn & Garden Chemicals, Pesticides, Weed Killers, Sprays Insecticides, Batteries - All Sizes (including lead acid & household), Fluorescent Bulbs (all sizes), Photography Chemicals, "Hobby" Chemicals, Mercury, Empty Propane Tanks, Roofing Tars, Drive Sealers.
- NO Water Based Paints, Radioactive (Smoke alarms), Ammunition, Explosives, or Medical Waste.





## Spring forward with safety

By: Steve Klemm, Main Office

The air is warming, the snow is melting and the trees are budding. This means it's time for daylight savings time, spring cleaning and yard work—all of which can present a variety of health and safety hazards.

**Time to Change the Clocks** – Daylight Savings Time begins every year on the second Sunday of March. Clocks are set forward one hour except in Hawaii and most of Arizona. When you change your clocks, check the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke detec-

tor batteries should be replaced yearly.

**Yard Work** – Limber up as winter's inactive muscles can take only so much strain. Don't overdo it. Wear protective clothing and safety glasses when handling pesticides and fertilizers. More than 60,000 people annually are treated in ERs from lawn-mower injuries. Rake before you mow, never start mower indoors or operate in your bare feet. Re-fuel your mower when the engine is off and cool. Don't spill gasoline on hot engine or smoke while refueling. Before you do any "hands on" weed removal, make sure you know how to identify poi-

son ivy, sumac, oak and other toxic plants. Find out ahead of time how to treat rashes. When pruning trees, be careful not to let metal ladders or trimmers contact overhead wires.



## Aquarius filter upgrade

By: Sarah Cerovski, Engineering Office

The Aquarius Water Treatment Plant, located in Willoughby, went online January 1, 1985. The plant provides drinking water to roughly 90,000 people throughout Eastlake, Timberlake, Lakeline, Wickliffe, Willoughby, Willowick and Willoughby Hills. Over 100 billion gallons of water have passed through the filters in the past 30 years. After thousands of filter washes and with the advancement of technology, it is time to replace the filters with new, more efficient models. New media configuration (anthracite coal and sand) and plastic filter bottoms (supports the media) will replace the existing clay tile, gravel, sand and anthracite. The new filters will increase plant capacity without having to expand the plant.

This project was modeled after a study done at the Bacon Road Water Treatment Plant when its filters were replaced. Since the water source is the same for both plants, the study's results could be used for the Aquarius Plant upgrade.



## Meet our new LCDU employees!

By: Cindy Leonello, Main Office



### Kelly Andino

Human Resource Administrator, Administrative Office

Hired: December 8, 2014

About: Kelly is married with five children. She has been a Lake County resident all her life, and in her spare time she enjoys reading. Kelly's favorite color is pink.



### Suzette Shank

Account Clerk, Customer Service/Billing Office

Hired: November 17, 2014

About: Originally from the West Side of Cleveland, Suzette currently lives in Perry with her husband and four children. An interesting fact is that Suzette has a 70 lb pet pig.

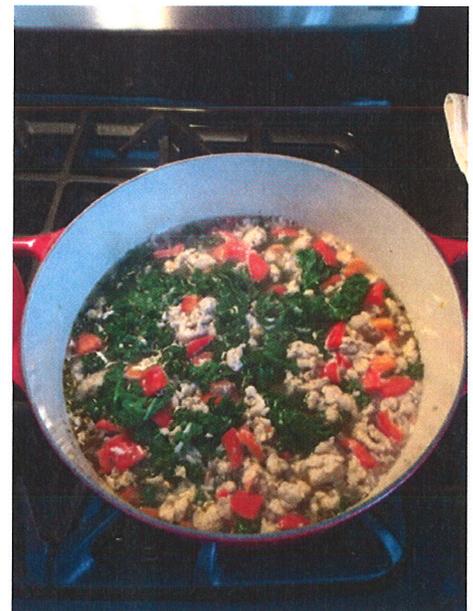
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## Chicken Sausage Soup with Kale

By: Sarah Cerovski, Engineering

- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- ½ of a sweet onion, diced
- 4 medium carrots, chopped
- 1 large red pepper, chopped
- 2 medium garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 1/2 lbs. Italian chicken sausage, casings removed
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup cooked rice (white or brown)
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 small bunch kale, center ribs removed, leaves coarsely chopped

Place a large soup pot on the stove over medium-high heat, add olive oil. After a minute or so, add the onions, red pepper and carrots. Allow vegetables to soften, stirring occasionally for 8-10 minutes. Add the garlic and Italian chicken sausage. Use a large spoon to break up the sausage until it is cooked through and in bite size pieces. Next add the rice and chicken broth and crushed red pepper. Add salt and pepper to taste, and bring to a low boil. Once boiling, add the kale and cook for 3 minutes. Adjust seasoning if necessary, serve and enjoy!



# Anniversaries

By: Cindy Leonello, Main Office

## 1 YEAR

Dave Conway, 1/13/2014  
Charles Brown, 3/10/2014  
Joshua Caranci, 3/24/2014

## 5 YEAR

Chad Hamilton, 3/22/2010

## 10 YEAR

Helen Hensley, 1/3/2005  
Carolyn Reed, 3/7/2005  
Karen Dickerson, 3/14/15

## 15 YEAR

John Thompson, 1/3/2000  
Dale Moran, 3/6/2000  
Steve Seaman, 3/6/2000

## 20 YEAR

Connie Strickland, 2/13/1995  
Carol Chase, 3/27/1995  
Ruth Medved, 3/27/1995

## 25 YEAR

Patrick Bush, 3/19/1990

## 30 YEARS

Dave Hardy, 2/12/1985  
Al Saari, 3/18/1985

## 35 YEARS

Rick Martin, 2/4/1980

*comments or suggestions regarding the newsletter or website?*

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