



## UNDERGROUND NEWS

### SEWER • SOLID WASTE • WATER

#### **Newsletter Committee**

Kristen Berg  
Scott Cole  
Josh Ellis  
Mike Erkkila  
Clint Gockerell  
Tonya Reidy

Volume 3, Issue 2

March 2008

## Solid Waste Facility Updates

#### **Inside This Issue:**

According To...	6
Birthdays	6
Department Updates	1, 3, 5
Employee Recognition	3
Employee Spotlight	4
New Employees	2
Safety News	3
Upcoming Holidays	6

Welcome to the landfill or, as we affectionately refer to it, The Dump. Let me guess, your first impression involves nasty smells, mud, and vermin. Now I will give you the rest of the story. Over 150 trucks, vans and cars come across the scale bringing over 700 tons of garbage daily. Traveling past the site on SR 20 you would never guess this is a landfill. Most people think it is part of the Metro Parks system. The area where the trash is buried is not visible from the road. Because Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) regulations require that all trash be covered at the end of every day, we usually do not have vermin or odor issues. The areas of the site that are full of garbage are now grass covered mounds that we mow regularly to give them a park-like look.

Special recycling collections are offered at the Lake County Fairgrounds for computers, oil paints and household hazardous materials to avoid the waste stream and extend the life of our landfill. While the landfill does not accept yard waste (grass clippings,

branches, leaves, etc.) some area nurseries and businesses do.

Tours are offered to schools or groups. A tour of our site gives the feel of a wildlife preserve. We have geese, sea gulls, fox, coyotes, eagles, deer, raccoons, skunks, hawks, and other creatures calling our facility home. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources bands our geese yearly to study the geese movement.

This past year has been a busy one at the Lake County Solid Waste Facility. Laurie runs our truck scale and Scott operates equipment. A new cell was constructed to receive waste for the next few years. This involved digging a 17 acre hole and lining it with a specific heavy plastic to meet our permit regulations for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Our new Learning and Business Center construction is also nearing completion.

*Submitted By: Phil Spencer, Solid Waste*



Solid Waste's New Cell Construction

#### **How Often Should I Replace My Smoke Alarm?**

You should test your smoke alarm once a month and replace the batteries once a year. Testing the alarm on a regular basis will help you and your family members recognize your alarm's audible signal. The smoke alarm itself should be replaced about every 10 years.

*Submitted By: Scott Cole, Safety*

## Meet Our New Employee - Trevor Long

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

A: I grew up in Concord Township and graduated from Riverside High School.

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

A: I like working outside.

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

A: A fly-in fishing trip to a remote chain of lakes in Northern Quebec, Canada.

The fishing was great and I caught a 44-inch Northern Pike.

*Q: What's your favorite food?*

A: I'd have to say my traditional favorite is meatloaf.

*Q: What's your favorite music?*

A: Classical Rock.

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

A: I like weightlifting.



**Trevor Long**  
**WESC**

In the 1900s an average home was 700 - 1,200 square feet with two bedrooms. If you were wealthy you would have an indoor bathroom. These homes were typically two stories and would cost about \$5,000 while the median family income was \$490.

In the 1950's an average new home was 1,000 square feet with two bedrooms, one bathroom and one story. The average price was \$11,000 with a median family income of \$3,319.

By the year 2000 the average new home jumped to 2,265 square feet with three bedrooms or more, 2.5 baths and 2 stories. The average price was \$206,400 with a median family income of \$45,000 +.

*Source: Workbench Magazine, February 2008*

## Meet Our New Employee - Cindy Leonello

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

A: I grew up in Mentor and graduated from Notre Dame Academy.

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

A: I like working with spreadsheets.

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

A: Yes. My husband (Bill), daughter (Hannah) and my mom and sister are all in the area.

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

A: I'd have to say St. Thomas. The scenery is breathtaking. My husband

and I took a cruise and while in St. Thomas we went site-seeing up a mountain to look over the bay. The views were very pretty.

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

A: I enjoy watching Monk and Law & Order Criminal Intent.

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

A: I love spending time with my family. My daughter takes dance classes 3 times a week and is involved in track and volleyball.

*Q: Do you have any pets?*

A: I have a Greyhound dog named Grandeur, 2 Mainecoon cats named Maggie Mae and Gracie Ann, and 1 rescue cat named Macie Marie.



**Cindy Leonello**  
**Billing**

## The Aquarius Biggest Loser Contest

It all began innocently enough. An employee was in the Aquarius Water Plant lab when he began discussing his vacation plans. He was going to the Grand Canyon this year, and his wife was planning on taking a donkey ride down the canyon. Unfortunately for the employee there is a 200 pound weight limit to be able to ride the donkeys and he was in excess of the limit. Never having dieted before, he decided the only way he could succeed would be if he had somebody watching over him. After a lengthy discussion and a sign up sheet we decided we would have a Biggest Loser weight loss contest.

The contest began on January 5, 2008 with the official weigh-in. It is amazing the interest a scale draws. I have always had access to a scale my entire life and consider owning one to be a necessity; apparently it is not that way for a lot of people. Employees who weren't even in the contest wanted to get weighed. Some people were pleasantly surprised by their weight, some were not so thrilled and then there were those who were pretty shocked. To quote one person, "Oh my! That is the most I've weighed in my life."

There are eleven employees participating (known as the Hungry Eleven); eight from Aquarius, two from the Main Office, and one from Bacon Road. Whoever loses the greatest percentage of weight by May 5, 2008 wins. The participants weigh in every Monday and the weight lost by each participant and total weight loss are printed in a group newsletter appropriately named *The Tubby Tattler*. As an added incentive, the person who does best for the week gets to wear a tag that says, "I am a Big Loser" while the person who performs the worst has to wear a tag that has a picture of a pig on it. No one wants the pig. We all have different reasons for wanting to lose weight and everyone has a little bit of a different idea on how to lose it. The contest is four months long and hopefully some good habits will be picked up and we will stick with them when it ends.

*Submitted By: Toni Ice, Aquarius Lab*

Congratulations to:

**Pat Bush** - Aquarius - Water Operator, Class III Ohio EPA Operator's License

### Did You Know that Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors Expire?

It's true. Although testing your CO unit on a monthly basis will test the circuits, it will not test the actual carbon monoxide sensor and the sensors go bad over time. Most manufacturers recommend replacing your carbon monoxide detector every 7 -10 years. Be sure to read the manufacturer's recommendations and write the expiration date on the unit to help remind you when it's time to be replaced. Some more affordable models are only good for 2 -3 years so be sure to read the details for your specific unit. If you don't remember when you purchased your detector, replace it. There are no special disposal requirements for CO detectors. Consider replacing your old unit with a plug-in style detector that has a battery backup. Newer models have digital readouts which are also a nice feature.

*Submitted By: Scott Cole, Safety*

## Safety News

Thank you all for your participation and support of the 2008 Safety Slogan Contest. I received a lot of very creative entries (over 40) which made this year's selection very difficult.

As we do each year, the Executive Safety Committee members independently vote for their top 5 entries, giving each a rating of 1 - 5, 5 being their favorite. No names are attached to the entries so it remains objective. The entry with the most cumulative points is the winner.

The votes are in and the winning safety slogans for 2008 are:

3rd Place = **LCDU Needs You. Work Safely.** - Submitted by Toni Ice, Aquarius

2nd Place = **Water, Sewer, Solid Waste Combined; Safety Should Be First in Mind.** - Submitted by Mike Erkkila, GLK

1st Place = **You Hold the Key...Keep LCDU Accident - Free.** - Submitted by Brian Cook, Inspection

Please help me in congratulating our winners.

*Submitted By: Scott Cole, Safety*



## Employee Spotlight

**Jason Emming**

West End Service Center  
Maintenance



Jason started his career with the County in 1996, working in Buildings & Grounds. Jason transferred to the Garage in 1999 and later in the year transferred again to the Utilities Department. There he started working for Dave Kenny as a meter reader. After four years of service as a meter reader, Jason took an opportunity in the maintenance division where he still works today.

Jason seems to have found a home here, working with Tony Maimone's crew, repairing breaks, replacing fire hydrants and installing new service connections. He has picked up on the work rather quickly and seems to enjoy and take pride in doing a good job. Jason has proven to be a reliable employee, both day and night, as he doesn't mind helping other crews whenever needed.

*Submitted By: Phil Peluso, WESC Superintendent*

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

I like to collect old golf balls and score cards from places I've played.

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

Golf. I also enjoy spending time with my family. My daughter is 10 and I really like spending time reading, playing games, traveling, going to the zoo, doing those kinds of things with her.

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

I like the people that I work with. I like the variety of people (I work directly with 20 - 25 people) and that my job is different every day.

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

My mom and dad both live in Concord.

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

I grew up in Painesville and I currently live in Painesville. I graduated from Harvey High School in 1992.

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

I thoroughly enjoy all of our housework. I love my wife very much but I'm a little particular about the way things have to be cleaned and organized. When she does things it's fantastic but I'm just a little obsessive-compulsive about certain things. I like cleaning. I really love to go grocery shopping.

### ***Do you have any pets?***

I have a 110 pound Great Dane / Lab mix named Atlas.

### ***What would you say is the most interesting place you have been?***

I would have to say Las Vegas. I do very little gambling but I like the scenery. Vegas has it all. You see a lot of strange things...certainly makes it interesting.

### ***What is your favorite type of music?***

I mostly listen to whatever my daughter wants to listen to. I have Sirius Satellite Radio and I'll listen to Top 40s, Jazz, Rock, Old School Rap, new Rap, CNN, Country, Blues, etc. I like everything.

## Thirsty Bird

Spice Rub Mix (mix all ingredients and set aside):

1/4 cup paprika, 1 Tbsp. light brown sugar, 2 tsp. cayenne pepper, 2 tsp. ground cinnamon, 2 tsp. dry mustard, 1 tsp. garlic powder, 1 tsp. onion powder, 1 tsp. salt.

- 1.) Thoroughly clean and rinse 1 whole chicken (4 -5 pounds). Pat dry. Coat inside and outside with spice rub mix. Refrigerate 1 hour.
- 2.) Preheat grill to medium heat.
- 3.) Pour out 1/3 of a can of beer (non-alcoholic if preferred). Add 1 Tbsp. of lime juice to the beer can and place on a drip pan in the center of the grill.
- 4.) Carefully position the chicken upright over the beer can, adjusting legs to balance.
- 5.) Cook on covered grill for 1 hour or until juices run clear when pierced with a fork.
- 6.) Let chicken rest for 10 minutes before serving. Enjoy!

*Submitted By: Rick Miklaucic, GLK Maintenance*



---

## The Lake County Garage

In the Utilities Department a lot of unexpected events occur. One of the most valuable tools we use are motor vehicles. During a recent visit to the County Garage the reason for the reliability of this asset became apparent. The hard working crew, headed up by Dennis Jakse with 25+ years experience at the County Garage, see that our motor vehicles give us safe and reliable service.

Dennis Jakse is the Superintendent of the Lake County Garage. Leon Atkins is the Assistant Superintendent. Denny and Leon have been supervising the garage since 1989; both have served as mechanics.

There are nine full time employees servicing 438 pieces of equipment and motor vehicles. Denny is able to access equipment and vehicle information very quickly using Fleet Manager, a computer program he implemented early in his career as a supervisor. Computer tracking makes the job of servicing the many vehicles more manageable. The vehicles' costs are tracked by the various departments quickly and easily. The oldest vehicle is a 1983 Ford Bronco and that speaks to the work the staff performs. The Sheriff's Department and Utilities Division are the two largest customers of the garage.

In addition to the service and repair of the motor pool vehicles, the Garage is responsible for specifications for new vehicle purchases. Working with the Commissioners and County Administrator they see to it the vehicles are properly outfitted. In many cases they perform the new vehicle walk-around with staff. The service intervals are every six months or every 4,000 miles. The preventive maintenance frequency extends the vehicle's serviceability. Most of the vehicles used by the County are cars and light trucks. They are usually replaced every seven years or 100,000 miles. Vehicles removed from service are auctioned on the County's website. When a breakdown occurs a small tow truck is at their disposal. The current facility presents some serious challenges for servicing the larger vehicles. This limits the size and scope of repairs for these vehicles and equipment. The mechanics also snowplow the County parking lots, requiring early hours during inclement weather. The County Garage crew makes it possible for us to serve the citizens of the County in safe and trouble-free motor vehicles and equipment.

*Submitted By: Clint Gockerell, GLK Maintenance*

---

## A Brief History of the Aquarius Water Treatment Plant

On January 1, 1985 the Aquarius Water Treatment Plant began making drinking water for the residents in Western Lake County. The transition from Cleveland Water to Lake County Water was not an easy one; it took over ten years and more than \$42 million to complete.

In 1974 the Lake County Commissioners began looking into the feasibility of operating their own treatment plant and distribution system.

After years of planning and much discussion, the united Lake County communities began producing their own water.

The result was a state of the art facility with the ability to make 20 million gallons of drinking water per day. "The transition opened our eyes to new methods of water treatment. We were in awe of the new technology" said Jack Sumrada, one of the first operators, who started at the Willoughby Water Plant. "Computers helped automate the plant and allow operators to learn the finer details of water treatment."

Although the designers took advantage of all the latest technology available at the time, when the plant first began to treat water operators had to drive to tanks and booster stations to make sure they were working properly. Today, with telemetry, an operator can check tank levels and booster station operations from the plant.

The plant has won awards from the Ohio EPA as an outstanding water treatment system and now provides drinking water to over 80,000 people.

*Submitted By: Randy Rothlisberger, Engineering*

---

## Upcoming Holidays

May 26th - Memorial Day



## According To...

The five best places for Ice Cream **According To** Tonya Reidy are:

1. Bruster's Real Ice Cream on Peach Street in Erie, Pennsylvania
2. Cold Stone Creamery
3. Kokomo's in Kirtland
4. Weber's Premium Custard and Ice Cream in Mentor
5. Dairy Queen

## Professional Development Group Update

The Professional Development Group (PDG) written program has been completed and communicated to each participant. Each member recently was asked to schedule a meeting with their supervisor to discuss and explain the written program. This allowed supervisors and PDG participants an opportunity to gain a better understanding of all of the benefits, opportunities and commitments that participating in the Professional Development Group can provide.

*Submitted By: Tom Moviel, GLK Maintenance*



## Happy Birthday



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Candi Coulter	4/4
Jeff Gatchel	4/7
Robert Rose	4/7
Mark Foulkrod	4/8
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
Jack Sumrada	4/27
Mike Holly	4/27

### MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Thomas Orosz	5/1
Debera Douglas	5/2
Mark Murphy	5/2
Rob Edmonds	5/6
Randall White	5/8
Edward Bauer	5/13
Dean Moore	5/13
William Kuzma	5/15
Susan Dodge	5/16
Keith Maddox	5/17
David Kenny	5/18
Ronald Walker	5/18
Carolyn Reed	5/19
Marie Millonzi	5/19
Joseph 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
Thomas Furlong	6/15
David Hutchinson	6/15
Trevor Weaver	6/18
Teresa Schnell	6/28