

Retired Employee — Hank Silvaroli

Hank Silvaroli started his employment with the County in 1983. He spent 13 years at the West End Service Center, retiring in 1996. He and his wife Sally reside in Willoughby in the same home where they raised their children.

Q: Are you enjoying your retirement?

A: I sure am! I keep busy playing golf, cross country skiing, and traveling to various casinos. My wife and I enjoy going to the Senior Center to play ping pong, pool and to dance.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: I exercise at a local club and I go to estate and garage sales where I find books and coins to sell on the internet.

Q: Have you traveled anywhere exciting since you retired?

A: My wife and I traveled to Ireland and Italy. In Italy I was able to visit the church my parents were married in and also had a chance to see my father's house. We also enjoy traveling to Wheeling, WV to see our granddaughter play basketball and Chicago to visit our other grandchildren.



Q: Do you keep in touch with your coworkers?

A: I see the distribution guys when they are working around the neighborhood. I go to the Christmas party at the Service Center every year (they like it when I bring peanuts).

Submitted by: Toni Ice, Lab Supervisor, Aquarius Water Treatment Plant

Thank you all for supporting and participating in the 2009 Safety Slogan Contest. Please help us in congratulating the following employees for their winning safety slogans:

Honorable Mention—Beth Hripko – Administration—Don't Water Down Safety.

3rd Place - Bernardo Slovinsky – GLK—Water, Sewer, Solid Waste; Safety Rules Are #1 in the Workplace.

2nd Place - Brian Cook – Engineering—Be Aware and Prepare. Let Caution Define Us.

2009 LCDU Safety Slogan Winner—Dave Ivans – West End Service Center—Safety. It's Included In Our Service.

Bowling for Utilities

Employees from the Sewer and Water Divisions braved the elements on Saturday, January 17th for a night of fun and friendly competition at a bowling alley in Fairport.

There was an all-you-can-eat pizza buffet, rainbow bowling, a few giveaways and a most interesting hoola-hoop contest. Fun was had by all!

I would like to give special thanks to Karen Dickerson at GLK for coordinating this fun-filled evening.

Submitted by: Jim Berg, Supervisor, East End Service Center

Small Changes May Turn into Excellent Habits

You have all heard the popular slogan: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Now is the time to heed these three words. The good news is you can start today, right here in the workplace, and it is easier than ever.

Here are 3 easy ways *YOU* can decrease office waste:

Reduce paper use by:

- cutting scrap paper into note and memo size paper for use
- setting narrower margins to avoid pages with little text
- single spacing documents, where possible using a smaller type face
- folding and reusing the opposite side of file folders

Eliminate unnecessary copies, notes, and memos by:

- using email for work related messages
- sharing and circulating documents
- replacing fax cover sheets with fax post-it notes

Switching from disposables to reusables:

- buy reusable filters for coffee machines
- use nondisposable tableware (mugs, silverware, plates)
- encourage suppliers to ship materials in reusable containers



Submitted by: Jessica Mitchell, Ohio State Program Extension Assistant

According To...

The top five best fantasy writers According To Trevor Weaver, Aquarius Lab Technician are...

1. Neil Gaiman – Books - *American Gods*, *Stardust*, *Coraline*, and 2008 Newberry Medal winner *The Graveyard Book*. Most famous for *The Sandman* comic book.
2. Terry Pratchett – Comic Fantasy Novels—*The Colour of Magic* is the first in the 36 book Discworld Series.
3. Steven Moffat – Television- his *Doctor Who* episodes “Blink” and “The Empty Child” are award winning and wonderfully creepy.
4. Alan Moore – Comic Books – *Watchmen*, *From Hell*, *V for Vendetta*, and *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* (all have been adapted to movies).
5. Bryan Fuller – Television – *Dead Like Me*, and the recently cancelled *Pushing Daisies*.

My Favorite Recipe

APPETIZER VEGETABLE PIZZA

2 Packages of Crescent rolls - press out flat on a cookie sheet & bake as directed.

Mix: 2 Packages 8 oz. cream cheese (softened)
½ Cup Mayonnaise
½ Package Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix

Spread on top of cooled crust. Top with chopped raw vegetables such as - broccoli, cauliflower, carrots (shredded) and green peppers.

Sprinkle with finely shredded cheese - cheddar, mozzarella or whatever you prefer.
Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Submitted by: Teresa Schnell, Account Clerk, Customer Service

Meet Our New Employee — Michael Pegoraro

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

A: I grew up in Mentor and attended Mentor High School.

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

A: I just started yesterday, but I like the fact it is full time.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

A: My parents, one brother, and my sister still live in Mentor. I have another brother in Euclid. I live in Mentor with my wife Lori and our three children, Kaili 10, Gianna 8, and Michael 5.

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

A: Jamaica and Saint Kitts. I enjoy seeing the different cultures.

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

A: I don't have a favorite show, but I enjoy both the History and Discovery Channels.

Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

A: Hanging out with my kids doing the things they enjoy.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Steak.



Michael Pegoraro
Aquarius Water Plant
Laborer

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Candi Coulter	4/4
Jeff Gatchel	4/7
Robert Rose	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
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
Susan Dodge	5/16
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 Pethtel	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



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Newsletter Committee:

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

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



UNDERGROUND NEWS

SEWER • SOLID WASTE • WATER

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A New Face "Lift"

A waste water collection system includes miles of gravity pipe and lift stations. Normally, sewage flows downhill (by gravity) towards the waste water treatment plant (WWTP). Occasionally, when a sewer is very deep (30 plus feet) or when a ridge or hill is between a development and the WWTP, a lift station is required. The lift station or pump station lifts the sewage over the obstacle so it can continue on its way to the WWTP by gravity. Lift stations require routine maintenance and from time to time need to be replaced.

The Madison WWTP collection system includes 10 lift stations. Built in the early 1920's, the Lake Road Lift Station is the oldest and handles approximately 60% of the entire sewage flow of the Madison WWTP. It is located at the corner of Lake Road East and Dorchester Road about 1.5 miles west of the Madison plant. This lift had three 15 horsepower Flygt pumps that were each rated at 1600 gallons per minute pumping capacity. All three of these pumps discharged into a single 12 inch force main that eventually fed a 27 inch gravity sewer. There was no wet well (storage space) built into this lift. Both of these factors led to problems during a major rain event. One would assume that wastewater flows would not increase because of rain, but unfortunately that is not the case. Infiltration, which is water that enters the sewers through cracked sewer pipes, leaky joints, and around man-hole lids and castings, can increase sewage flow to the treatment plant significantly. During these rain events, the Madison maintenance crew would have to set up portable pumps prior to the lift station to prevent sewer backups due to this increased flow.

In 2008, the Lake Road Lift Station was eliminated and a new station was built directly behind it, giving this station a much needed face lift. Building the new lift station behind the existing one had numerous benefits. One such benefit was that it allowed us to keep the existing station in operation until the new lift station was 90% complete. Therefore we only had to set up a portable pump and by-pass both lift stations for a short period while we made the necessary sewer connections between the old and new stations.



Now that the new station is in operation, things have changed dramatically. The new station has four 15 horsepower Flygt pumps rated at 1600 gallons per minute pumping capacity. These four pumps discharge into two - 16 inch force mains instead of the single 12 inch force main. This alone allows for a greater volume of sewage to pass through the lift station at a much faster pace. The station also has a new wet well area that can hold approximately 20,000 gallons of sewage at any one time. Since the installation of the new station, the Madison WWTP has experienced at least three major rain events. During these events, we have never had more than two of the Flygt pumps pumping at the same time. That is a dramatic decrease and should correlate to a large savings in electrical consumption and expected pump life. This project was very beneficial to both the plant and the customers that the Madison WWTP serves.

Submitted by: Tom Hanes, Superintendent, Madison Wastewater Treatment Plant

The 2008 LCDU Holiday Party

It wasn't that long ago everyone was caught up in holiday activities; now they seem like distant memories. One of the activities that quite a few LCDU employees took part in was the annual Holiday Party, held on December 5th at an indoor sports park in Willoughby.

This party was the largest yet with 110 people attending, including ten retirees and spouses. Jolene Ball and Dee Hine planned the event, switching the location to keep the party affordable and casual. The change of atmosphere as it made it easier to mingle and socialize with friends and colleagues. There was a corn hole tournament won by Scott Cole and Randy Rothlisberger. Steve Doremus was the lucky winner of the 50/50 raffle that supports the annual holiday party. Everyone had a good time and the feedback was very positive.

Join in the fun at the LCDU Holiday Party in 2009. Make your reservation early. Contact Dee or Jolene with suggestions. Your feedback is always welcome.

Submitted by: Toni Ice, Aquarius Lab Supervisor

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

"Stimulus Package" and "shovel-ready" are phrases rarely heard a year ago. Now they dominate the news daily. Last month President Obama signed one of the largest spending bills in the history of the United States with the purpose of putting our economy back on its feet. The bill is officially called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Congress has recognized the need and allotted the money to improve our nation's underground infrastructure. The United States, including Lake County, had quite a building boom in the years following World War II. Millions of miles of water and sewer pipes were installed to accommodate the rapid growth of the nation. This infrastructure is now 60 years old. As with any other material, pipes wear out and must be replaced. Everyone, from our nation's leaders, to planners, and especially the crews who maintain the pipes are aware of the need to replace or rehabilitate them. The million, or should I say the billion, dollar question is "how will the improvements be funded?"

The bill allocates "\$6 billion for local clean and drinking water infrastructure improvements" according to the House of Representatives press summary dated February 12, 2009. This may sound like a lot of money; after all, if you laid 6 billion one dollar bills end to end, you could go around the world 22 times! Yet the American Society of Civil Engineers estimates over 1 trillion dollars are needed over the next five years to maintain our current infrastructure.

What does the stimulus package mean for our Department?

Funding has been available to help improve infrastructure through the state and federal governments for the past several years in the form of grants and loans. The Department has been able to take advantage of these programs and replace thousands of feet of sanitary sewer and water lines. In 2007 we replaced 10,000 feet of waterline and in 2008 we replaced 12,400 feet of waterline. In addition, several thousand feet of sanitary sewers were replaced or rehabilitated last year. To properly maintain our systems we will eventually need to replace about 40,000 feet each of water and sewer pipe every year.

The funding proposed in this bill is unprecedented. By recognizing the need and preparing for replacement of our infrastructure, we are in the unique position of having true "shovel ready" projects (ready for construction within 180 days). Our Department has submitted projects for consideration totaling \$18,850,000 with the potential of creating 370 local jobs. Whether or not funding will be available for our Department is unknown, but we are prepared to "stimulate" the economy and improve our infrastructure at the same time.

Submitted by: Randy Rothlisberger, Assistant Sanitary Engineer

Employee Spotlight — Joe Elmore



Joe started in May of 2005. Joe Elmore was previously employed for a private excavating company for five and a half years. His main responsibilities were that of a heavy equipment mechanic. His other responsibilities include driving and operating heavy equipment, welding and fabricating.

We're all very pleased that Joe has brought with him some of these useful skills, changes and ideas to our Department. It is a pleasure and a benefit having Joe at the East End Service Center.

Submitted by: Jim Berg, East End Service Center Supervisor

Do you like to collect anything?

I like to collect John Deere die cast collectibles. I started collecting them when I was about 8 years old.

Do you have any hobbies or interest?

I enjoy working outside. I use to deer hunt and race 4-wheelers but haven't had the time in a few years. I also like to weld and fabricate things.

What do you like most about your job?

I like working outside, especially during the summer. Excavating is another thing I like most about my job.

Do you have family in the area?

My parents live in Perry. My sister and grandparents live in Madison.

Where did you grow up and go to school?

I have lived in Perry all my life. I graduated from Perry High School.

What would you say is your least favorite household chore?

That's easy; washing dishes. I hate washing dishes. At my wife's previous job I would help her by washing dishes. I washed so many dishes that now I hate it. I will run a dishwasher 5 times in a row until a dish comes clean rather than washing it by hand.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, we have a German Shepherd named Tug. We have two cats name Leroy and Samantha. A turtle named Scooby. A ferret named George and 6 chickens that we haven't named yet.

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

I would have to say Niagara Falls. That's where my wife and I spent our honeymoon.

What is your favorite type of music?

I like rock and country music.

