



UNDERGROUND NEWS

SEWER • SOLID WASTE • WATER

Newsletter Committee

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New

Groganix Compost

The compost material is a product of the Gary L. Kron Water Reclamation Facility produced from anaerobically digested sludge. The digested sludge is dewatered on belt filter press and transferred by conveyor to a ram-eject semi-trailer in the sludge loading bay. The trailer is weighed and moved to the compost building for the construction of the compost windrow.

The compost building contains eight (8) windrow channels in the concrete floor each 500 feet long, which contains the piping to provide negative air flow through the windrow. Each 500 foot row is divided into five (5) separate 100 foot air sections making it possible to regulate the air flow of each section independent from the rest. Bulk material consisting of hardwood chips, sawdust, and/or recycled compost with total solids concentration of 53% or greater is added to the sludge cake with a front-end loader. The sludge cake and bulk material are then thoroughly mixed with a composting machine to form the windrow. The sections are approximately five (5) feet high, twelve (12) feet wide and 100 feet in length. Each section contains approximately 100 cubic yards of mix.

Generally, for the first few days, depending upon ambient air temperature, no air is drawn through the windrow. This allows the temperature to rise. During this initial phase, sufficient air is provided by mechanically mixing the windrow with the composting machine. After temperatures have reached the desired level within the windrow, air blowers are cycled on twenty minutes and off twenty minutes to provide necessary oxygen to the stabilization process. During the last two-three days of the composting process air is supplied continuously to promote drying of the finished product.

Windrows are constructed on a daily basis and since each section is a different age they require different amounts of air for optimum operation. This is accomplished by controlling the amount of air to each 100 foot section of windrow. Air ducts to the trenches are equipped with a valve, pneumatic actuator, and limit switches programmed to cycle on/off position of the valve as desired. Temperatures and oxygen content are monitored at five locations in each 100 foot sections of windrow on a daily

basis to determine a need for mixing or adjustment in air flow.

After a four-week aerated composting period in the windrows the compost is transported to the final curing area of the compost operation, where static piles are built to complete the destruction of pathogens to acceptable levels. The static pile composting process is designed to produce a marketable Class A product under the time and temperature requirements of State of Ohio Sludge Regulations. The regulations require that the temperature in the aerated static pile be maintained at 157 degrees Fahrenheit or more for a minimum of three days so that pathogens are reduced below detectable levels. To assure pathogen reduction, the densities of indicator organisms, such as salmonella, sp. Bacteria and fecal coliform, must be below the requirements of the sludge regulations in the finished product. Vector attraction reduction is accomplished by reducing volatile sludge solids to less than 38% through anaerobic digestion.

Target areas for marketing of the finished Groganix Compost produced at the Gary L. Kron Water Reclamation Facility are primarily in the Lake County area, however; distribution of Groganix Compost in neighboring counties is increasing. Many nursery owners have utilized Groganix Compost in their operations by incorporating the compost into potting mix or using it for greenhouse media. Commercial landscapers use the product as a top dressing for lawns or as an amendment for top soil. The finished Class A Compost is also available to the general public for use in gardening and landscaping. We also use the finished compost material as a soil amendment for land reclamation at the Lake County Solid Waste Facility. The compost is mixed with top soil and used as a top dressing on slopes in areas which have been brought to finish grade. The use of Groganix reduces soil erosion by accelerating and enhancing vegetation growth at the Solid Waste Facility. It is the intention of this department to maintain a Class A level of compost. Groganix Compost is acceptable for general use, including food crops. The compost classification is verified on a monthly basis by analyzing parameters required within the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit including state biosolid standard requirements for vector attraction and pathogen reduction.

Submitted By: Michael Sullivan

Meet Our New Employee - Mike Mospens

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

A: I grew up in Eastlake. I went to grade school at St. Justin Martyr and went to high school at Lake Catholic.

Q: Did you play any sports growing up?

A: I played softball for a few years after high school but nothing organized in school.

Q: Do you still play?

A: No. It takes too long to heal.

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

A: The people. Everybody has been very helpful and friendly.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

A: Yes. I'm married with two kids (two

boys - 14 & 16). My parents and my brother live in Eastlake. I have five sisters but they do not live in the area.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Two dogs, Australian Shepherd mixes.

Q: What's your favorite music?

A: I don't really have a "favorite" type of music. I listen to everything. Jazz, Country, Swing,...I have a little bit of everything in my CD player. I really enjoy all music.

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

A: Scrubs. The best character is the janitor... the comedy for him is so dead-pan.

Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

A: Going to my kid's soccer games.



Mike Mospens
Aquarius Maintenance

Meet Our New Employee - Bill Hill

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

Grew up in Elyria, Ohio, and went to Elyria High School and Lorain County Community School.

Q: Did you play any sports growing up?

No.

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

Various Job Locations.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

My daughters family lives in Willoughby.

Q: Do you have any pets?

No.

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

Washington, D.C.— Capitol of our govern-

ment, museum, history.

Q: What's your favorite music?

Gospel.

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

24.

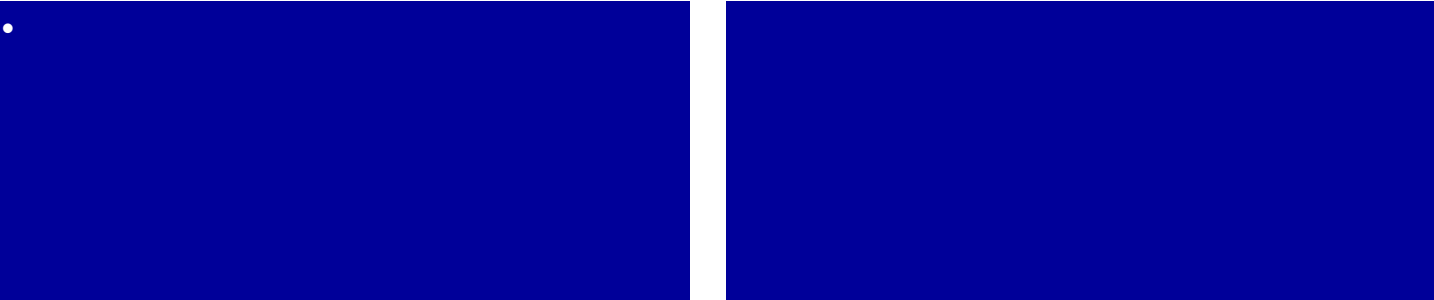
Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

Relax.



Bill Hill
Inspector

Rules and Regulations Manual Update



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

October:

6th and 13th - Myths, Legends & Graveyards @ Lake County History Center, Kirtland
12th -13th, 19th-20th, 26th-27th- Halloween Hayrides @ Lake Farm-park
13th -14th - Corn and Pumpkin Harvest Weekend - Lake Farmpark
14th -The 18th Fall Bridal Gala @ the Mentor Comfort Inn
29th - 20th-Magical WHooloween at Penitentiary Glen's Nature Center
28th - Mooreland Mansion Craft Show - Mooreland Mansion, Kirtland

November:

2nd and 16th - Broken Wheels Square Dance in Kirtland
4th - Wildwood Quilters Guild Quilt Auction @ Mentor Senior Center
13th - 14th - Historic Downtown Holiday Open Houses - Downtown Painesville
16th - Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Northeast Ohio 5th Annual Festival of Trees Gala @ Quail Hollow Resort
17th - Winter Wonderland - Candy Wonderland Display @ Penitentiary Glen
30th - Country Lights @ Lake Farm-park

December:

1st - Fairport Harbor Holidays @ Fairport Marine Museum
1st - 2nd, 7th - 9th, 11th - 23rd - Country Lights @ Lake Farmpark
2nd - Wildwood Holiday Craft Show

Upgrade to the Billing Department's Phone / Voicemail System

The Billing Department has recently upgraded the phone system with the integration of a call recording software – “ECHO”. This software records all internal and external calls. The recordings are saved in individual user’s folders, labeled with the employee’s extension number, and are stored on the network for easy access.

The objective of having this software is to continue moving forward in enhancing our customer service as well as providing a source of support and useful training mechanisms for the customer service staff. When a customer issue is brought to the attention of a supervisor that particular recording can be accessed and the customer and staff conversation can be witnessed. This allows the supervisor to respond confidentially and accurately to the customer or staff concerns. In addition, recordings can be emailed to the Department head for review when needed.

When a customer calls the billing office the customer is introduced with: “Thank-you for calling The Lake County Department of Utilities.” “For Quality assurance your call will be recorded.” There have been several occasions the staff would ask me to listen to a phone conversation due to a complex conversation. This program has made me more aware of the challenges the staff may be exposed to. I commend the billing staff for their professionalism, endless patients and efforts.

To provide support and guidance to our customers and staff, recordings will be used in future training seminars.

Submitted By: Connie Strickland

Safety News

Big hazards come in small packages. Although hammers and saws may not be the largest equipment used in the workplace, improper use of these and other hand tools is a common cause of injury. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety in Hamilton, Ontario, suggests reminding workers about a few commonsense tips that will keep them off the injured list.

Tool maintenance is key. Inspect tools for defects before use, and replace or repair any defective tools or parts. Make sure handles on axes, hammers or other tools fit tightly. Keep cutting tools sharp. Keep all tools clean and dry, and store them properly after each use.

Know when to discard a tool. For example, a hammer with a mushroomed or chipped face, or with cracks in the claw or eye sections, is a hazard and should be discarded.

Practice good housekeeping. Clutter causes accidents. Keep the work environment clean and tidy. Choose the right tool. Select the right tool for the job according to manufacture’s directions. Substitutes increase the chance of having an accident.

Wear protective equipment. Wear safety glasses, goggles, or face shields, and well-fitting gloves appropriate for the hazards to which you may be exposed.

Other Commonsense reminders:

- Do carry tools in a way that interferes with using both hands on ladder, while climbing on a structure or when doing any hazardous work. If working on a ladder or scaffold, tools should be raised and lowered using a bucket or hand line.

- Ergonomically, a good general rule is to use tools designed to allow the wrist to stay straight. Avoid using hand tools with your wrist bent.

- Pull on wrenches or pliers. Never push unless you hold the tool with your palm open.

- Point sharp tools lying on benches away from isles, and handles should not extend over the edge of the bench top.

- When using a saw, make sure the teeth and blades are properly set. Apply pressure on down strokes only. Hold stock firmly in place. Use a helper, a supporting bench or vise to support long stock if required.

- When using a hammer, look behind and above before swinging. Watch the object you are hitting, and strike the blow squarely with the striking face parallel to the surface being struck. Always avoid glancing blows and over-and-under strikes.

Source: ISHN (Industrial Safety & Hygiene News)



Employee Spotlight

Mike Hozian

GLK - Maintenance



Mike started with the Department in 1999. He came to us from a company called Melinz Rebar where he drove a truck all over the Ohio and the surrounding states, delivering rebar.

Mike's a very professional person and is always ready to accept new responsibilities. He has a positive attitude, makes good decisions and gets along well with others.

Mike's responsibilities include grounds work, snow plowing, driving (Mike has a Commercial Driver's License (CDL)) and preventive maintenance on generators and grounds equipment at GLK. Mike can fix just about anything which makes him a huge asset to our organization.

Mike's skills, experience, motivation and dedication are a big benefit to Lake County Department of Utilities.

Keep up the good work Mike. The extra things you do are noticed and appreciated.

Submitted By: Jim Binns

Do you like to collect anything?

I collect cars. I have a 1970 Chevelle and a race car, a Vega station wagon.

Do you have any hobbies or interest?

I try to race just about every weekend (if the car is running). I've been doing that since 1988. My Vega has a 454 Chevy big block with a power glide tranny. It was rebuilt in 1995 and certified to run 8.5 in the quarter mile. The fastest time that I've ran was 9.48 with a top speed of about 148 mph. I also just purchased a 2000 Harley Davidson Road King. I have always wanted on so I'm looking forward to have some fun this summer and do some riding.

What do you like most about your job?

I enjoy coming to work. Everyone is really good to work with, especially my partner Junior...he's a great guy and an even better friend. I generally get to do something different every day which is also a plus. All in all, it's a good job. I can honestly say that I'm happy to be here. Not too many people can say that so I feel fortunate.

Do you have any family in the area?

I have a younger brother that lives in Kirtland, a sister in Garfield Heights and an older brother that lives in Winterpark, Florida.

Where did you grow up and go to school?

I grew up in Wickliffe and graduated from Saint Joe High School.

What would you say is your least favorite household chore?

Window washing. I'm not real fond of it. My dad was a window washer which is probably why I don't like to do it...but I do.

Do you have any pets?

Yes. I have a new dog, a German Shepherd named Eva. She's about 11 months old.

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

Well, of course the race tracks that I've been to are pretty cool. I've been to Michigan International Speedway a few times, National Trail Raceway in Columbus, Norwalk, Thompson, and Quaker City, just to name a few. The Florida Keys are pretty interesting too. I've been there on vacation and to visit my brother. I stopped by the Don "Big Daddy" Garlits Museum of Drag Racing which is in Ocala, Florida. that was pretty neat to see.

What is your favorite type of music?

I listen to all kinds of music. I'm usually tuned in to 98.5 or The Wave. Basically anything except for rap and/or country.

Adding Physical Activity and Nutrition into Your Daily Life!

- * *Walk down the hall to speak with someone instead of calling them.*
- * *Pack your lunch.*
- * *Park further away from the office.*
- * *Take the stairs instead of the elevator.*
- * *Take walking breaks.*
- * *Walk the dog.*

- * *Eat smaller portions more frequently instead of a big meal.*
- * *Start your day with breakfast.*
- * *Try to drink 8 glasses of water a day.*
- * *Schedule exercise time on your calendar and treat it like an appointment.*
- * *Exercise with a buddy.*

*These little things can make a **BIG** difference!*

Professional Development Group Update

The Professional Development Group (PDG) held their second meeting at Veterans' Memorial Park on June 27th. Meeting attendees had lunch while learning techniques from Tom Moviel, on how to organize and conduct a meeting. Mike Erkkila also developed and facilitated a team building activity. During this meeting, members interacted with employees from other departments to gain an understanding about the rolls individuals play in all three of our divisions. Members also learned networking skills to pool ideas, experiences, and resources. This event was put together with help from Missy Weiss, Grant Glazier, Bill Simone, Scott Burke, Tom Moviel, and Mike Erkkila.

Submitted By: Tom Moviel

Upcoming Holidays According To...

Columbus Day — October 8th

Veterans Day — November 12th

Thanksgiving Day — November 22nd

Christmas Day — December 25th



Happy Birthday



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Frank Zalek | 10/5 |
| Jim Binns | 10/6 |
| Jeff Urban | 10/7 |
| Kerry Troy | 10/16 |
| Tom Rigby | 10/16 |
| Doug Breach | 10/17 |
| Rich Hazen | 10/17 |
| Al Saari | 10/18 |
| Mark Rhoades | 10/19 |
| John Diemert | 10/21 |
| Tiffany Ducksworth | 10/22 |
| Chris Hodges | 10/23 |
| Ron Hakli | 10/23 |
| Roger Barbian | 10/26 |
| Kristen Berg | 10/29 |
| Connie Strickland | 10/30 |

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Beth Hripko | 11/1 |
| Mike Shack | 11/2 |
| Scott McGlothlin | 11/4 |
| Joe Elmore | 11/7 |
| Missy Weiss | 11/7 |
| Brian Rihtar | 11/10 |
| Nick Iarocci | 11/14 |
| Barney Slovinsky | 11/15 |
| Nancy Videtic | 11/15 |
| Richard Miklaucic | 11/19 |
| Steve Seaman | 11/19 |
| William Simone | 11/19 |
| Buddy Scoville | 11/25 |
| Joe Misosky | 11/27 |
| Sam Rice | 11/27 |

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Greg Widmer | 12/2 |
| Maryhelen Gilkey | 12/4 |
| Dave Baum | 12/6 |
| Mike Melnyk | 12/6 |
| John Zak | 12/8 |
| Ken Overbaugh | 12/9 |
| Skip Rigby | 12/13 |
| Tom Moviel | 12/13 |
| Carrol Chase | 12/14 |
| Nancy Perkins | 12/15 |
| Jason Emming | 12/17 |
| Lucy McClung | 12/18 |

This issue of the *Underground News* is dedicated to the memory of Warren Zorn.