



Newsletter Committee

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Did You Know?

1 Part per Billion is
equivalent to 1 Second in
32 years.

Source: *Industrial Hygiene
News, September 2008*

UNDERGROUND NEWS

SEWER • SOLID WASTE • WATER

Volume 3, Issue 3

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GLK's Mercury Pollutant Minimization Program

Why does mercury in the environment receive such high levels of regulatory scrutiny? After all, isn't it a naturally occurring element? In short, improvements in toxicology studies and analytical chemistry techniques have revealed mercury to be more harmful than previously realized.

Human activities have introduced more mercury into the environment than occurs naturally. Mercury behaves differently in the environment than most other pollutants. It is not a food source. It is not decomposed. It cannot be broken down. Instead, it persists. Mercury clings to surfaces, and is carried to the ends of the earth by the winds. It lands somewhere: in water, on land, maybe hundreds or thousands of miles away from its source.

When mercury is deposited on food, it is consumed. Ingested mercury is not entirely eliminated from the body. Some remains in the tissues and accumulates. At every meal, day after day, year after year, a portion of the mercury consumed accumulates in the body tissues. An organic form, methylmercury, is even more potent than elemental mercury. Methylmercury can be formed through microbial action in sediments and soils. It bio-accumulates up the food chain as larger aquatic organisms consume smaller organisms. Methylmercury can bio-accumulate to an even greater extent than other forms.

Older, larger fish, precisely the fish most valued, easily can have accumulated several million times the mercury levels of their native waters. They become one large dose of toxic mercury to all predators, including us. For this reason, fish advisories have steadily increased. Land animals can become mercury delivery systems as well. Over the past decade, this problem has been a focus of environmental and health organizations the world over.

In 1998, the USEPA began a public comment period with the release of a draft "Mercury Action Plan." Response was extensive. In 2003, the USEPA held a series of "listening sessions" with states and tribes, national and local governments, business leaders, and health and environmental organizations. As a result, an agency-wide workgroup was formed. A new action plan was developed – "EPA's Roadmap for Mercury."

In the July, 2006, "Executive Summary" (www.epa.gov/mercury/pdfs/ExecSum.pdf), the USEPA reports "impressive results. For example, overall U.S. mercury air emissions have been reduced by 45 percent since 1990, and mercury use in products and processes decreased 83 percent between 1980 and 1997."

In an excellent program approved by OEPA for contact hours, Jerry Ondo and Scott McGlothlin of the GLK Pretreatment Group present health and regulatory aspects of mercury in the environment. They also discuss the Mercury Remediation Program (MRP) implemented on behalf of the Lake County Department of Utilities.

Many sources of potential mercury discharges in Lake County have been eliminated as a result of the MRP. Continuing the OEPA regulatory mandate to reduce mercury discharges to below the water quality standard of 1.3 parts per trillion, sources of low level mercury must now be identified. Using a series of mercury-free water blanks, the sampling program must prove that any mercury detected is from the sample source, and not introduced by contamination. Even tooth fillings can be a source of contamination!

A sophisticated low level mercury analysis system - The Teledyne-Leeman Hydra AF Gold Plus - is utilized to comply with the stringent low level mercury analytical requirements of EPA Method 1631. This instrument can accurately measure mercury concentrations as low as 0.2 parts per trillion (nanograms per liter). This is equivalent to one pinhead of mercury dispersed in an Olympic size swimming pool - 648,000 gallons!

...continued on Page 7

LAKE COUNTY FALL EVENTS

Kids bored again? Looking for something new and exciting to do? Check out these family friendly events this fall.

October

10th-11th, 17th-18th, 24th-25th HALLOWEEN HAYRIDES

Lake Metroparks Farmpark, 8800 Chardon Road, Kirtland: Family-oriented fun; rated PG-5 on the "scare meter." Travel down a one-mile trail on a Halloween Hayride. Dress for the weather – rides go rain, snow or shine!

HOURS: Fridays, October 10th, 17th and 24th, 7:00PM-9:00PM; Saturdays, October 11th, 18th, and 25th, 6:00PM-9:00PM

ADMISSION: Advance purchases only; tickets go on sale September 2nd.

Ticket hotline, 440-256-2158

11th THE ULTIMATE BIRTHDAY PARTY EVENT

Great Lakes Mall: Great ideas and great resources for birthdays, that's what this one-of-a-kind event is all about! The kids will have some birthday fun as they enjoy inflatables and play birthday games, spin the birthday wheel for prizes and make a birthday craft. What's a birthday without cake? HOURS: 10:00AM-4:00PM

17th-18th MAGICAL WHOLOWEEN

Penitentiary Glen Reservation: Non-scary Halloween alternative for families with children ages 2-11 years old featuring storytelling, crafts, games, night hike, and miniature train ride.

HOURS: 5:30PM-9:30PM

ADMISSION: Pre-registration required and fee applies; Call 440-358-7275 to register.

CONTACT: 440-256-1404

November

6th GET HEALTHY LAKE COUNTY – LECTURES/ACTIVITY SERIES: TRAIL HIKING SAFETY

Penitentiary Glen Reservation.

Dress appropriately for the activity.

HOURS: 6:00 PM

ADMISSION: FREE to members;

\$5.00 for non-members

CONTACT: Best of Health, 440-953-

6000 to register or for more information; www.lhs.net

7th, 21st MODERN WESTERN STYLE SQUARE DANCING

9017 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland: Modern western style square dances, mainstream and plus levels, phase II round dances. Visitors are always welcome. Non-dancers are invited to watch for free.

HOURS: 8:00PM-10:30PM

ADMISSION: One Fee for all

ages/\$5.00

CONTACT: 440-285-8477

22nd through Jan. 1st CANDY WONDER LAND,

Penitentiary Glen Reservation: 8668 Kirtland-Chardon Road, Kirtland; Re-live your childhood memories and celebrate the holidays with Lake Metroparks this year at the Candy Wonderland exhibit featuring scenes inspired by everyone's favorite childhood board game, Candy Land®. HOURS: 12:00PM-5:00PM; Open Christmas Eve noon-3:00PM; Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day CONTACT: Dan Burnett, 440-256-1404

December

5th-23rd COUNTRY LIGHTS

Lake Metroparks Farmpark, 8800 Chardon Road, Kirtland: A fun-filled celebration of the season featuring horse-drawn wagon rides through a winter wonderland trimmed with 'hundreds of thousands' of holiday lights and farm-themed displays.

HOURS: 5:00PM-9:00PM

ADMISSION: Advance purchase only. Tickets go on sale November

1. Ticket hotline: 440-256-2158

6th THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON, Victoria Place and Veteran's Park on the Square in Downtown Painesville. The day starts with our annual parade on Main Street followed by some great holiday activities. We'll have holiday crafts for the kids and carnival games by the Lake County YMCA. Of course Santa will be arriving in Painesville to greet all his little friends.

HOURS: 12:00PM-3:30PM

ADMISSION: FREE

CONTACT: Painesville Recreation, 440-392-5912; www.painesville.com

6th LUNCH WITH SANTA

Grand River Cellars, 5750 Madison Road, Madison: Enjoy holiday games, a food buffet and a visit with Santa. Every child gets a gift.

HOURS: 11:30AM

ADMISSION: Adult 11 and up/\$8.00;

Youth 2-10/\$6.00

CONTACT: 440-298-9838;

www.grandrivercellars.com

Remember! This is just a sample of all the great events that Lake County has to offer this fall.

For a complete list check out:

<http://www.lakevisit.com/events.html>

Meet Our New Employee — Bill Davis

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

A: I was born in Morgantown, WV and lived in Madison, Wisconsin and moved to Mentor, Ohio in 1982.

Q: Did you play any sports growing up?

A: Just pee-wee football.

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

A: I love driving the tanker trucks for GLK. Ever since I was ten years old I've wanted to drive a big truck.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

A: I live with my wife and two sons ages 18 and 20 in Mentor. My older son attends ITT Tech and the

younger goes to Lakeland.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have a black lab named Zak, two cats, Filo and Milo, and a bird named Rooster

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

A: Washington D.C. We got a grand tour of everything and saw all the famous places. My favorite part was the bus ride down with my friends though!

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

A: I don't really watch that much television. But my favorite movies are *Saving Private Ryan* and *Forest Gump*.

Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

A: My favorite after work activity is on and off road four-wheeling. My sons and I have ATV's. I also love riding my Harley motorcycle on country roads.



Bill Davis

GLK

Waste Water Tanker Truck Driver

Meet Our New Employee — Phil Thompson

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

A: I grew up in Mentor and went to Mentor High School.

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

A: I enjoy working with my hands as a maintenance employee. I've only been here three weeks but I like the people I work with. I get along with everybody.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

A: I have two brothers and one sister. I'm the youngest of the five. I also have a six year old boy named Phillip

and two step daughters, Mandy age 2, and Tiffany age 20.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: No pets. My son is allergic to everything.

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

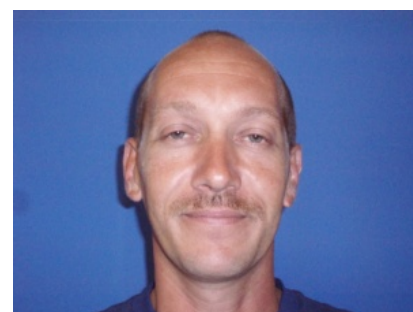
A: I went to Naples, Florida to fish. I enjoy fishing and hunting

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

A: I like all comedies.

Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

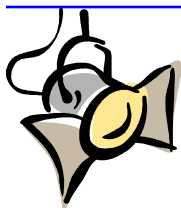
A: I enjoy ATVing with my son and he even has his own little dirt bike.



Phil Thompson

GLK

Maintenance



Employee Spotlight

Rich Damore
Inspection Supervisor



Rich began his career in public utilities as a Licensed Sewer Plant Operator for Broward County, Florida. In 1983 he came to work for Lake County Department of Utilities as an Engineering Technician at the Aquarius Maintenance Facility. Rich transferred to the Engineering Group in 1985 where he inspected and documented installation and repairs of sanitary sewer and water lines. In 2005, he was promoted to the position of Lead Inspector. Currently, as Supervisor of the inspection group, Rich provides daily leadership, guidance and representation to seven full time and 4 part time inspectors.

Rich displays a high level of personal integrity and professional values. His dedication to the organization is one of his strongest aspects. His many years of experience, loyalty and dedication make him a pleasure to work with and a valuable asset to the Department.

Submitted by: Jolene Ball, Engineering Office Manager

Do you like to collect anything?

I like to collect golf course score cards and logo golf balls.

Do you have any hobbies or interests?

I enjoy golf, bowling, traveling and spending time in the great outdoors.

What do you like most about your job?

Salary and the benefits

Do you have any family in the area?

Oh, yes. Being one of eight children, we occupy Lake, Medina, Lorain and Cuyahoga County.

Where did you grow up and go to school?

Having grown up and gone to school in many areas around the country, I would consider Lakewood pretty much where I grew up and went to school.

What would you say is your least favorite household chore?

I really dislike cleaning the bathrooms.

Do you have any pets?

Sure do. I have two cats, Bella and Skipper

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

Mount Zion National Park in Utah. It has the most colorful rock formations I have ever seen. And the Hoover Dam as well - it's an engineering marvel!

What is your favorite type of music?

Classic Rock

If we were to go your house right now, what would we find in your fridge?

Anything you would want to eat....you name it! We don't starve in our house!

2009 Department Social Event — Monsters Hockey Game

January 14, 2009 - Lake Erie Monsters vs. Quad City Flames, Quicken Loans Arena @ 7:00 PM.

Tickets are \$40.00 each and include an all-inclusive food and drink package.

Please contact Scott Cole (350-5706) no later than October 17th if interested.



We Would Like to Recognize the Following Employees for Reaching These Service Milestones

25 Years of Service

Thomas Hillwig
Richard Douglas
Maryhelen Gilkey
David Ivans
Gerald Roy
Barry Traxler
Robert Shelby
Richard Damore
Josephine Scoville
Lucy McClung

20 Years of Service

Robert Bates
Dale Anthony
Vicki Thorsen
Richard Soden
Ronald Hakli
Ken Stoneman

15 Years of Service

Melanie Rangel
James Berg
Douglas Breach
Philip Spencer

10 Years of Service

Michael Shack
Randall Rothlisberger
Jolene Ball
Thomas Moviel
Michael Spencer
Frank Burkholder



Meet Our New Employee — Katie Graham

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

A: I grew up in Willoughby Hills and graduated from Willoughby South High School.

Q: Did you play any sports growing up?

A: Yes. I played volleyball and softball.

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

A: I enjoy the consistency and attention to detail needed to accurately perform everyday tasks.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

A: Yes. Most of my family lives in Northeast Ohio.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: Sure do. I have two cats; Whisky and Sky.

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

A: Washington D.C. There is so much history to see. I think everybody should make a trip there at least once.

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

A: King of Queens. Doug and Carrie crack me up.

Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

A: In the summer I'm on a volleyball league and in the winter I'm on a bowling league.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Lasagna.



Katie Graham
Billing
Account Clerk



Water Versus Wastewater...Article on Page 9



Meet Our New Employee — Jerry Hagan

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

A: I grew up in Mentor and graduated from Mentor High School.

Q: Did you play any sports growing up?

A: Yes. I played football at Mentor HS, both offensive guard and defensive nose guard.

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

A: I like my job a lot. I like that I'm always in a different place and always doing something different.

Q: Do you have any family in the area?

A: Yes. My whole family, mom, two brothers, three sisters, are in the Mentor / Concord area. I live in Perry

with my family.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have an 8-year old chocolate lab named Brittany.

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

A: I'd have to say Washington State. The forests are like walking back in prehistoric times.

Q: What's currently your favorite TV show?

A: I don't watch a lot of TV but I do like Hot Rod TV, Trucks, and My Classic Car. I'll watch those shows if it's raining and there's nothing else to do.

Q: What's your favorite after work activity?

A: Working out. I work out at home and at Perry High School.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Steak.



Jerry Hagan

GLK

Maintenance

The Lake County Fair (It's not just about greasy fries)

There is a list that is distributed yearly in the Lake County Utilities Department in early August and if your name is on it you are a lottery winner! You have just been selected by random drawing from a list of supervisors and Professional Development Group (PDG) members to represent the Utilities Department at the Lake County Fair.

The LCDU booth is located inside the exhibitors building at the Lake County Fairgrounds. In the past Mark Brenkus and Mark Foulkrod have set up the booth and Jolene Ball and Dee Hine coordinated scheduling and supplies. This year with more PDG involvement in the booth Grant Glazier, Jim Berg, Mark Foulkrod, and Dee Hine set up the booth. The PDG this year discussed possible booth improvements and plans for next year's fair.

If you had the opportunity to visit the fair maybe you stopped by the LCDU booth. There is a video played showing operations of the treatment facilities and providing information about the treatment processes. We provide items that are made from recycled materials, such as pencils, paper shopping bags, Weber jar openers, and coasters made from tires. Also available at the booth were samples of our Groganix compost from GLKWRF. The compost was packaged by John Diemert, Randy Rothlisberger, Jolene Ball, Dee Hine, Scott Cole, and Tom Moviei. There was information provided on waste recycling opportunities and special collection dates, including hazardous waste disposal, tire disposal, and phone book collections. The public often has questions for the booth workers. If the worker doesn't know the answer he or she can point them in the right direction or take their name and phone number and forward the information to the appropriate person.

The fair provides an opportunity for the department to make the public aware of the services we provide, educate about our treatment plants and processes, and provide answers to any questions they might have. It is a good time to receive public feedback on the services we provide.

Submitted by: Toni Ice, Lab Supervisor, Aquarius

Mercury continued...

It took about one year to establish a low level mercury analytical program. Initial background studies revealed variable contamination at levels from 12 - 25 PPT. With some appreciated modifications to the lab by the Maintenance Group, and with effort and persistence, background levels have been reduced to about 0.6 PPT. A high degree of control over reagents, equipment, and the environment is required to maintain these low levels.

Atmospheric mercury makes it likely that mercury dust is carried on everyone's clothing. Winds carrying electrical utilities coal burning stack discharge is a confirmed contamination variable. In order to protect samples from contamination, personnel will periodically see signs on GLK laboratory access points stating: Low Level Mercury Analysis In Progress—Do Not Enter. This restriction will help by minimizing any problems introduced through contamination. Mercury is a problem, it is everywhere, and this problem is being addressed.

Submitted by: Joe Misosky, Lab Supervisor, GLK

The 1.3 parts per trillion mercury limit is equivalent to a one square foot tile on a floor the size of Indiana.



The Lake County Wellness Program

The Lake County Wellness Program continues to offer Pilates and Boot Camp five days a week in the Administration Building Assembly Room. Pilates classes were first offered in March of this year and are held at lunch time and immediately after work. Many county employees take advantage of these classes because they are convenient and free. The Pilates class helps to improve strength, flexibility, posture and enhance individuals' movement of day-to-day activities. It also helps decrease pain and stiffness and de-stresses the mind and body. Pilates is the perfect addition to any cardio-program. In June Boot Camp Classes (a more advanced fitness class) were added to the schedule. Boot Camp is a combination of stretching, Pilates, cardio and weight training, with an emphasis on cardio. The Wellness Committee is looking to add a fitness class for beginners. If you would like more information on these and other wellness programs offered by the County, please contact Jackie Via, Wellness Coordinator at 350-2748.

Submitted by: Dee Hine, Administrative Assistant, Aquarius

Seasonal Employment Program

The Utilities Department employed eight hard working college students for our 2008 seasonal employment program.

Nate Anzelc and Pat Chase worked in the Engineering office collecting data using GPS equipment, sanitary sewer and water investigations and GPS mapping. Both assisted with data entry for the new project and permit database, researched drawings and records for customers and staff, and filed electronic and hard copies of permit records. Nate and Pat assisted with distributing correspondence to residents in the Bellflower/North Palmerston area in preparation for testing and investigation of sanitary sewers.

Megan Holly assisted with administrative duties. Megan sorted and filed backflow documents, researched and entered resolution dates and information for the project summary report. She also participated in letter writing and record retention meetings. Record retention and disposal took off under the wings of Megan. She moved, sorted and arranged boxes of files. She compiled information for files to be retained and typed lists for record disposal. Assisting in the reception area, Megan wrote assessment receipts, routed mail and provided customer service.

Colleen Prendergast worked with our Safety Director. Colleen updated the confined space program and emergency contact lists, wrote articles for the newsletter, completed chemical audits for each site, and assisted with ordering and distributing new emergency contact signs for each facility. She worked on personal lockout tags for management, reorganized the safety manual, created picture files, worked on the Quality Assurance Department's PPE selection guide and participated in safety meetings.

Meg Diemert and Casi Dosky worked at GLK in the maintenance department. They painted two administrative offices and plant pipes. They assisted the grounds crew in pulling weeds and landscaping. Both were responsible for keeping the offices and facilities clean and stocked. Meg and Casi assisted by spreading mulch and watering trees at the Lester Drive lift station. They also worked as a team to help with the Bio-filter weeding project.

Kelly Repicky and Jeff Shelby worked with the Water Quality Assurance department. In a joint effort with the Fire Departments, LCDU has started a hydrant maintenance program. Kelly and Jeff painted all the hydrants in Painesville Twp., Madison, and Eastlake along with several in Wickliffe. They averaged about 15-20 hydrants a day. They also assisted the QA department with clean up at satellite stations and helped the Aquarius plant with cleaning.

Submitted by Dee Hine, Administrative Assistant, Aquarius

Water Beats Wastewater 19—15

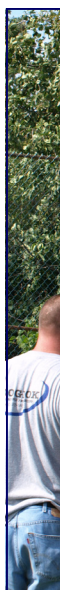
On September 14th, some of the LCDU Water & Wastewater staff got together to enjoy some camaraderie and a beautiful day. The day's agenda included a picnic lunch and a competitive/fun game of softball.

The picnic was outstanding. Everyone filled up on hot-dogs and their favorite beverages. With full stomachs we attempted to play a softball game - some more than others.

The Water Division came out strong in the first inning but the Wastewater Division fought back to make it a close and entertaining game.

It was a great time sharing the day with co-workers. I would like to send out a special thank you to Tom Moviel for organizing this event and providing the facility.

***Submitted by: Jay Spetrino, Superintendent,
Aquarius***



To see more photos from the game go to X:\Photos\Misc\2008 Softball Game

Upcoming Holidays

Columbus Day: October 13th

Veterans Day: November 11th

Thanksgiving: November 27th

Christmas: December 25th



According To...

According to Matt Armand, the five best ways to conserve gas are:

1. Keep your windows closed to reduce drag, reducing your mileage by 10%.
2. Avoid rough roads; dirt and gravel rob you of up to 10% of gas mileage.
3. Regular tune-ups ensure best economy.
4. Inflate all tires to the maximum limit.
5. Remove excess weight from trunks. Extra weight reduces mileage
6. Car pools reduce gas expense – all riders chip in to help pay.



Happy Birthday



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Mike Mospens	10/1
Frank Zalek	10/5
Jim Binns	10/6
Jeff Urban	10/7
Clint Gockerell	10/15
Kerry Troy	10/16
Tom Rigby	10/16
Doug Breach	10/17
Rich Hazen	10/17
Al Saari	10/18
Mark Rhoades	10/19
Jeff Soeder	10/20
John Diemert	10/21
Tiffany Ducksworth	10/22
Chris Hodges	10/23
Ron Hakli	10/23
Bill Hill	10/24
Roger Barbian	10/26
Kristen Berg	10/29
Connie Strickland	10/30
Trevor Long	10/30

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Beth Hripko	11/1
Mike Shack	11/2
Scott McGlothin	11/4
Joe Elmore	11/7
Missy Weiss	11/7
Brian Rihtar	11/10
Bernardo Slovinsky	11/15
Nancy Videtic	11/15
Richard Miklaucic	11/19
Steve Seaman	11/19
William Simone	11/23
Buddy Scoville	11/25
Joe Misosky	11/27
Sam Rice	11/27
Scott Reed	11/27

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Greg Widmer	12/2
Maryhelen Gilkey	12/4
Dave Baum	12/6
Mike Melnyk	12/6
Ken Overbaugh	12/9
Skip Rigby	12/13
Tom Moviel	12/13
Carol Chase	12/14
Joe Abel	12/14
Nancy Perkins	12/15
Jason Emming	12/17
Lucy McClung	12/18
Lori Ross	12/21
John Spuzzillo	12/21
Tom Hanes	12/22
Jim Adams	12/24
Pat Bush	12/30

