

of mutual interest

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI FOR THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI

August ²⁰⁰⁷

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Perspective:

Message from the GLT



Mark Lasswell

Kids around the country are in back-to-school mode right now, and it's made me think that it's a good time for all of us at CH2M HILL OMI to get back to basics, too.

When you're working on deadlines for a proposal, addressing a water or wastewater challenge to keep us in compliance, or responding to citizen requests at one of our municipal services projects, I hope you understand that your work helps us achieve our E³ Mission: To exceed our customers' expectations, to empower our people and to enhance the environment.

Please take a few moments this month to review our company's Purpose Statement. Reflect on how your work plays a vital part in our company's overall success and what you can do differently today or tomorrow to improve our services a little bit more. Truly, the smallest things we improve every day can add up to increasing success for our company.

I'm especially focused right now on three of our seven Values: our commitment to **safety**, our commitment to **integrity** through compliance, and our commitment to **quality** through Everyday Excellence. I believe your outstanding support in these areas has helped us be one of only three CH2M HILL business units to achieve above-plan business and safety performance through July, and with your continued hard work, we can still be on that list come December.

As always, thank you for your efforts to deliver excellent work every day. That's what will keep our customers coming back to work with us this month, next month and every month of the year.

Mark

CH2M HILL OMI selected to start up fourth Georgia city

Organizers of the soon-to-be City of Chattahoochee Hill Country, Ga., have selected CH2M HILL OMI to design, implement and operate all of the municipal processes and services that citizens will receive when the city formally opens Dec. 1.

The memorandum of understanding, signed in late July, also recommends that the city officials who are elected in November should continue to partner with CH2M HILL OMI for municipal operations services for this community of about 2,500 citizens.

Chattahoochee Hill Country is the fourth brand-new Fulton County city to rely on CH2M HILL OMI's expertise, following Sandy Springs, incorporated Dec. 1, 2005, and Milton and Johns Creek, both incorporated Dec. 1, 2006.

Voters overwhelmingly approved a referendum in June to create the new city, effective Dec. 1, 2007, as a means of improving levels of service to citizens, strengthening local control and preserving the 50-square-mile community's rural character. CH2M HILL OMI expects to provide administration, public works and community development services through a public-private partnership model similar to the three other cities.

"We've analyzed the data, toured other CH2M HILL OMI-operated cities, and done our homework, and

we believe this partnership is the best way to provide reliable, high-quality service and lower costs for the citizens of Chattahoochee Hill Country," says Tom Reed, president of the Chatt Hills Organizing Committee, which signed the MOU. "We also know CH2M HILL OMI has the unique people and process skills necessary to get our city services up and running within the next four months."

The company already has been helping the soon-to-be city with mapping, development and planning resources, and other guidance on city start-up.

"This community has a strong focus on preserving its wetlands, forestlands, open spaces and other natural resources while also wishing to improve services for all residents, which aligns with our own corporate values," says Vice President, Municipal Services **Rick Hirsekorn**. "We believe Chattahoochee Hill Country will prove to be another great example how public entities and private companies can work together to enhance and advance quality of life."

Featuring rolling hills, tree-lined roadways and abundant recreation opportunities, the City of Chattahoochee Hill Country will include about 33,000 acres in south Fulton County, between the Chattahoochee River and the city of Palmetto, Ga.

Too much rainfall for some projects, not enough for others

In a summer where significant rainfall has been an issue for some of our projects, the lack of moisture is creating problems in other locations.

Typically, less rainfall wouldn't be cause for alarm because it would mean low water levels and fewer headaches for project managers. However, some of our sites depend on regular rainfall for land harvesting efforts. Two Georgia sites, Gwinnett County and DeKalb County, located in Lithonia, Ga., are two locations that perform land harvesting. Both are struggling with the low amount of rainfall.

Land harvesting involves growing crops, such as Bermuda grass, by using sludge or other commercial fertilizers. The grass is then cut down and sold for cattle feed or used for erosion control. Usually Gwinnett County and DeKalb County are on a third round of cutting by now, but since both locations are suffering a 10-inch deficit in annual precipitation, they are only on their second cut of the year.

"With no rain, the Bermuda grass doesn't grow. It caused us to miss the second cutting completely," says Gwinnett County and DeKalb County Project Manager **Phil Facer**.

Still, after receiving only a small amount of rain, the sites have been able to harvest at least a sparse crop. During normal rainfall last year, one of the fields produced 1,940 bales of hay. This year, after second harvest, only 499 bales of hay have been produced.

While producing a low number of bales is a concern, another worry troubles Phil—high nitrate levels. When the grass does not receive the right amount of water, its growth is stunted. This leads to high nitrate levels, and hay cannot be sold for one its main purposes—cattle feed.



Baling hay in DeKalb County. We're featuring DeKalb County and Gwinnett County in our new Project Profiles section of Of Mutual Interest. Turn to page 4 to read more.

"If the cattle eat this hay, they will get nitrate poisoning," says Phil.

To prevent any chance of this happening, the hay undergoes plant tissue tests that determine nitrate levels.

"The hay that cannot be sold as cattle feed is sold for erosion control, where it's used to help damaged land absorb water and nutrients in such areas as construction sites and areas where there have been forest fires," says Phil.

Associates are working hard to harvest what grows, but as Phil put it, "I wish we could just make it rain."

In contrast to needing rainfall, our sites in Fayetteville, Ark., and Duncan, Okla., have enough rain to share.

Fayetteville runs a similar operation to the sites in Lithonia. It doesn't use sludge as fertilizer but uses a commercial fertilizer due to a unique phosphorus build-up in the area.

Rain continued on page 3

IN OUR INDUSTRY

Company sponsors conferences on innovation, sustainability

Our company's support helped two municipal clients host national events on prominent issues in local government: innovation and climate change.

Transforming local government

In June, CH2M HILL OMI teamed with the local CH2M HILL office to become a major sponsor of the Transforming Local Government conference in Bellevue, Wash.

The Alliance for Innovation or AFI—a partnership of The Innovation Groups, the International City/County Management Association and Arizona State University—has created what it calls the widest and deepest innovation-based network serving local government. The organization's signature event, the Transforming Local Government Conference, takes place annually and brings together hundreds of local government professionals from every facet of public service.

CH2M HILL sponsored the 2007 conference, which attracted public service professionals from across the country, including elected officials, city and county managers, department directors and front-line staff.

"The TLG conference brought out innovators in city and county government—leaders in implementing new techniques and technologies for serving citizens and performance measurement," says Senior Vice President **Gary Miller**. "Attendees had a tremendous opportunity to network and share best practices, and the company had great visibility alongside major names like Microsoft."

CH2M HILL OMI was invited to co-sponsor the event by Bellevue Client Service Manager **Dan Speicher** of the Water Business Group's Utility Management Solutions team.

The 2008 conference will be held June 4-6 in Greenville, S.C. In the meantime, CH2M HILL OMI will be hosting an AFI member luncheon for city managers in conjunction with the ICMA conference in Pittsburgh, Pa., in October.

Local governments for sustainability

In July, Fayetteville, Ark., hosted the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability national workshop on local climate action. The workshop was co-sponsored by CH2M HILL OMI.

ICLEI is an international association of more than 650 local governments with a mission to improve the global environment through local action. In mid-July, about 150 local elected officials, staff and other interested parties gathered in Fayetteville for ICLEI's 2007 National Workshop, "Saving Energy and Money: The Economic Benefits of Local Climate Action."

Since 1993, ICLEI and has grown from a handful of local governments participating in a pilot project to more than 250 U.S. cities, counties, towns and villages providing national leadership on climate protection and sustainable development. CH2M HILL OMI client members include Fayetteville; Carol Stream, Ill.; New Haven, Conn.; Seattle, Wash.; Taos, N.M.; and Traverse City, Mich.

In his opening remarks, Fayetteville Sustainability Coordinator John Coleman—the first public sustainability coordinator in the state—announced that the city's fleet division recently opened its new biodiesel station, which will power half of the city government vehicles with Arkansas-grown biofuel. Throughout the conference, Fayetteville showcased several of its sustainable projects, including its award-winning, LEED-

certified library. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

Shortly before hosting the conference, Fayetteville Mayor Dan Coody earned first-place honors in the first annual Mayors' Climate Protection Awards Program, sponsored by Wal-Mart and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, for the city's Trails Master Plan. The awards were created to recognize and honor mayors for outstanding and innovative practices that mayors are taking to increase energy efficiency in their cities and to help curb global warming. An independent panel of judges determined the winning cities from a pool of more than 100 applicants based on the following criteria: mayoral leadership, creativity and innovation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and/or improved quality of life in their communities.

Earlier this year, Fayetteville's City Plan 2025 won an international award from the Congress of New Urbanism for encouraging responsible growth while discouraging sprawl, auto-dependency and further negative impacts on global climate change.

CH2M HILL OMI participants in the conference included Regional Business Manager **Billy Ammons**, Marketing & Communications Director **Susan Mays**, CH2M HILL Regional Sustainable Solutions Manager **Kristin Hargreaves** and Fayetteville Project Manager **Duyen Tran**, who serves on the city's sustainability committee.



Visit the Alliance for Innovation at www.transformgov.org or get ICLEI workshop highlights at www.iclei.org/us.

SAFETY BEGINS WITH ME



Reader note: You may have noticed that we've changed Of Mutual Interest a bit to make it easier for you to read. We're now including health and safety news in every issue of Of Mutual Interest, rather than once a quarter. Look for a full page of health and safety news in next month's issue.

Small voices, big ideas on how to stay safe

To celebrate National Safety Month in June, we encouraged associates to bring the safety message home to their family by having their children send in a favorite safety tip.

We awarded prizes in a random drawing, and our four winners were **Riley Boone**, grandson of Duncan, Okla., Project Manager **Tim Boone**; **Olivia D'Amato**, daughter of Sales Director **Rich D'Amato**; **Trevor Duprey**, son of Walla Walla, Wash., Administrative Specialist **Cheryl Rickertsen**; and **Tasha Smith**, daughter of Compliance and Reporting Trainer and Permit Analyst **Elisabeth Smith**.

Heed this important advice:

Always have a fire escape plan with an emergency plan of who to call, what to save (people, animals, paperwork or disks) and how to help.

- **Aly**, 7th grade, daughter of Coos Bay, Ore., Operator-in-Training **Douglas Welch**

Never put anything into an electrical outlet except for a plug.

- **Bradley**, 6th grade, son of **Cheryl Rickertsen**

Don't talk to strangers.

- **Clara**, 4th grade, daughter of Corporate Communications Supervisor **Carolyn Brinkers**

1) Make sure that you don't leave small things laying around the house that little ones can get their hands on or try to eat and choke. 2) Make sure to

let your children know that they should never accept any candy from someone they don't know well and especially candy that is not wrapped.

- **Paige**, 5th grade, granddaughter of **Tim Boone**

Make eye contact before crossing in front of a car that's about to make a turn – they might not see you about to cross in front of them while they are just about to turn.

- **Jenna**, 8th grade, daughter of Carol Stream, Ill., Administrative Specialist **Cathy Jordan**

Always keep gates to the pool latched, especially when you have small children and pets that could be in danger of falling in the pool.

- **Jennifer**, 7th grade, daughter of Oak Ridge, Tenn., Operations Supervisor **Steve Humphrey**



When driving with your parents make sure to always buckle up! Also, be on your best behavior so you don't distract your mom or dad.

- **Madeline**, 2nd grade, daughter of **Rich D'Amato**

Make sure the gas burners and oven get turned all the way off after cooking. When I was learning to cook, I thought I'd turned the burner off because the flame was out. But it turned out the gas was still on. When we came home several hours later, the smell of

gas in the house was really strong. We opened all the windows and didn't turn anything on (lights, TV, etc) until the gas cleared.

- **Mercedes**, 11th grade, daughter of **Elisabeth Smith**

When you hear the fire alarm at your house, make sure to get out as quick as possible. Don't stop to bring toys and make sure to go to your family meeting spot.

- **Olivia**, 3rd grade daughter of **Rich D'Amato**

Don't lean back in the chair while you are eating dinner.

- **Riley**, kindergarten, grandson of **Tim Boone**

Make a family plan for evacuating the house in the event of fire. Where is the family meeting point? If all the bedrooms are upstairs and the fire is downstairs, how will you exit the house? Rope ladders that hang from a window can be stored under a bed and pulled out when needed.

- **Tasha**, 10th grade, daughter of **Elisabeth Smith**

Don't click on Web site pop-ups on the computer unless your parents allow you to.

- **Trevor**, 6th grade, son of **Cheryl Rickertsen**

When riding motorcycles, go-carts, etc., wear safety gear so you can enjoy the ride again and again.

- **Clayton**, 7th grade, son of Temple, Texas, Project Manager **Chris Parker**

RENEWALS AND NEW BIZ

Effingham County renews public works contract

Effingham County, Ga., has renewed its public works contract with CH2M HILL OMI for one year.

CH2M HILL OMI will continue providing road construction and repair, drainage, right-of-way permitting and maintenance, and road inspection for the County.

“We get good reviews from citizens and the board of commissioners about our work, and we’re glad to continue our partnership with Effingham County in this capacity,” says Effingham County Project Manager **Allen Davis**.

The County has decided to staff and operate its water and wastewater plant in-house; CH2M HILL OMI stopped providing those services in July.

“Effingham County is a valued partner, and we are proud to serve them in whatever capacity they need us,” says Sales Manager **George Cartledge**.

Associates in Effingham County are actively involved in their community. Last year, they helped Habitat for Humanity by hauling more than 40 loads of fill dirt to help construct a building that Habitat needed so it could sell excess products donated by contractors and developers.



Associates in Effingham County hauled fill dirt last year to help out Habitat for Humanity.

Wyckoff work secured for 15 more months

CH2M HILL OMI’s work at the Wyckoff-Eagle Harbor Superfund Site in Bainbridge, Wash., has been extended for another 15 months.

Since 1993, the company has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and CH2M HILL to operate the site’s complex groundwater treatment facility, which was designed to clean groundwater that had been contaminated by residue left over from a wood-treatment facility and shipyard.

The new, noncompete contract with the Army Corps of Engineers allows CH2M HILL OMI to continue operating the existing groundwater treatment plant while construction on a new treatment plant is under way.

“Project Manager **Stan Warner** and his team have done an outstanding job maintaining and operating this challenging facility,” says Regional Business Manager **Mike Moon**. “Their efforts enabled us to secure the noncompetitive contract, positioning us for continued service to the United States Army Corps of Engineers.”

“It is a credit to the tremendous onsite team and support resources that we have remained at the Wyckoff facility for the past 14 years,” says Regional Vice President, Delivery **Steve Meininger**. “We also have worked collaboratively with other CH2M HILL business groups that have provided consulting, engineering, design, planning and other services at the site during our tenure at the facility.”

Traverse City renews contract for additional 5 years



A view of the Traverse City plant.

The city commissioners of Traverse City, Mich., renewed their contract with CH2M HILL OMI to operate the wastewater plant and related services for another five years without a formal competition process.

“This renewal is a testament to the strong performance and proven capabilities of our associates at the site during the past 17 years,” says Regional Vice President, Delivery **Steve Meininger**. “We were viewed as having the unique capability to run their large membrane bioreactor facility, which demonstrates the strength of CH2M HILL OMI’s reputation and resources.”

The city did not seek bids, in part because officials said CH2M HILL OMI was uniquely positioned to run the technologically advanced system. During the past 10 years, two upgrades, in conjunction with CH2M HILL and CCI, doubled the plant’s biochemical oxygen demand treatment capacity and installed one of the world’s largest membrane bioreactors.

“Beginning with day one of this renewal, we’ll be working every day of this five-year contract to make sure we get that same decision in another five years,” says Traverse City Project Manager **Scott Blair**.

CH2M HILL OMI has been responsible for the O&M processes at the plant since 1990. In addition, the company operates two satellite projects for nearby clients. This includes a 0.69-mgd wastewater treatment plant for Leland Township and a 0.05-mgd wastewater treatment plant for Sugar Loaf Service Company. CH2M HILL OMI also operates Grand Traverse County’s new septage treatment facility.

Rain *continued from the front page*

Another key difference among the sites is the amount of rain each is receiving.

“I have never seen it rain as much as it has this summer in the 19 years I have been working here,” says Fayetteville Land Application Site Coordinator **Ralph Guthary**.

With so much rain, they sometimes haven’t been able to harvest hay.

“We couldn’t get it off the field, so we just kept rolling it and eventually had to sell it at a discounted price,” says Ralph.

Since growth levels are high, the crops’ nitrate levels are recording incredible lows. In contrast to the Lithonia sites, Fayetteville recently received plant tissue results showing very low nitrate levels.

“Our protein levels are still high, which is good, but even better is that our nitrate levels are the lowest I have ever seen,” says Ralph.

After coming off an extremely dry summer the year before, associates are welcoming the rain and the growth. Recent harvest produced high numbers, and Ralph expects them to carry throughout the summer and into the fall. For example, more than 800 bales of hay were produced after harvesting 120 of 550 total acres. This number is coming close to the record summer Fayetteville experienced in 2005, when more than 3,000 tons of hay were harvested.

“Despite being two weeks behind because of the rain, if the frost doesn’t come too early, we’ll be able to reach that mark again, especially with the gangbuster crop we’re harvesting right now,” says Ralph.

Another location that has been dealing with the rain—as more of an adversary than as an accomplice—is our Duncan site. After being victim to drought for the past six years, associates did not expect rainfall levels like they are seeing this summer.

“There are rainfall records that have been around since the 1950s that are being broken,” says Duncan Project Manager **Tim Boone**.

More than 8 inches of rain fell in one day this summer, breaking a previous record set in 1952. These high amounts of rain have tested associates on how to handle the increased water flow effectively. Unfortunately, the added rainfall has caused operational problems, including complications with discharge permits and sewer line issues.

“My team is doing the best possible job it can do. With every problem we encounter, they have quickly found a solution preventing any further or future damage,” says Tim. “Sadly, sometimes there are things that are out of our control, and we just have to react the best that we can.”

So whether it has been a lack of rain this summer or enough to share with the rest of our projects, our associates have been doing their part to keep CH2M HILL OMI’s reputation as a company that can be trusted in difficult times.



The Duncan site has had some unfortunate weather conditions—lots of rain this year and not enough in years past. Last year’s dry conditions made it easy for a grass fire to spread. Thankfully, no one was hurt, and no major plant damage occurred.

PROJECT PROFILE



Reader note: We've got a new feature for you to enjoy. In this and future issues of Of Mutual Interest, we'll be profiling our projects to find out a little bit more about the uniqueness each project brings to our company. Want to see your project featured? Call Of Mutual Interest Editor Carolyn Brinkers at 720.286.4227.

Urban farmers, road warriors unite to tackle DeKalb County, Gwinnett County scopes

You may not know it, but several CH2M HILL OMI associates are farmers. Yes, farmers. At the same project, farmers work alongside several seasoned road warriors who log countless miles each year hauling dewatered biosolids to a local landfill. Oh, and did we mention they operate a wastewater package plant for the Fayette County Board of Education?

Where in the world does CH2M HILL OMI perform such a varied scope? Here's a hint—it all happens near the ninth most populous city in the U.S., Atlanta. That's right; the associates at the DeKalb County and Gwinnett County projects accomplish all these feats. Project Manager **Phil Facer** oversees both of the projects, based out of Lithonia, Ga. It's a daunting task, but Phil is up to the challenge. According to one associate, "If you have never met Phil, you'd think he's 10 feet tall."

A little bit about DeKalb County

The DeKalb County project is a 580-acre land application site where associates land-apply biosolids from a nearby 20-mgd wastewater facility. The team farms a Tift 44 hybrid Bermuda crop on 300 of the 580 acres while adhering to U.S. EPA 503 regulations. Associates land-apply biosolids using two Terra-Gator trucks with 4,200 gallon tanks. Using positive displacement pumps on both sides of the trucks, the crew surface spreads biosolids on the farmland. The sludge sprays out about 30 feet. The crew has the drill down to a science, taking only around 20 minutes roundtrip to fill the tank with sludge from the overhead storage tanks, drive to the field, discharge the load, and return to the storage tanks. They average approximately 180,000 gallons per day when applying biosolids.

Next, associates must harvest the Bermuda crop. They cut, fluff, rake and bale the hay. Then they haul the hay to the onsite hay barns where buyers come to pick it up. Area buyers range from horse and cattle owners, people



Associates pick up bales of hay to take them to the hay barn to sell. Area buyers include the Atlanta Zoo; zookeepers feed the hay to elephants.

using the hay for erosion control, the Yellow River Game Ranch, and the local zoo (elephants love it). Associates typically harvest three to four crops a year. However, this year, the drought in Georgia has severely curtailed harvesting operations. (See related story on front page.) They've only been able to do one cutting so far when they normally are finishing the second harvest at this time of year.

The biggest challenge the DeKalb County project faces is coordinating biosolids application and the hay harvests. It is a tricky balancing act. Typically, the team separates the site into three, 100-acre sections. When the first section is being harvested, the second section is in a 30-day waiting period while the last section is receiving sludge application. Each section cycles through so the associates aren't overwhelmed with any one task at a time. This is all contingent on Mother Nature cooperating—they cannot harvest the crop or apply biosolids in certain types of weather, and in years of drought, such as this one, the number of harvests decreases.

The DeKalb County site has a unique setting, an unusual story, and some interesting history:

- Despite being located only 20 miles from the Atlanta airport, it's teeming with wildlife, including whitetail deer, coyotes, fox, bobcats, rabbits, wild turkeys and quail.
- A notable incident occurred when the pilot of a single-engine plane decided the best and safest place to land was in one of the hay fields. The plane engine died about two miles from the fields and the pilot coasted, landing wheels down in Fields 26 and 27. Fortunately, the pilot was safe, but Phil did suggest to him that if it happens again, the site road might be a better landing option as it won't tear off the wheels of his plane like hay fields did.
- The DeKalb County site also is home to a cemetery that is more than 200 years old. A Revolutionary War veteran is buried there. As part of their community involvement activities, associates maintain the cemetery.

Meanwhile, in Gwinnett County

While the Gwinnett County project deals with biosolids, the scope is vastly different than the DeKalb County project. In Gwinnett County, associates haul dewatered biosolids in tractor trailer trucks from three wastewater treatment plants to a landfill. The crew uses four tractors and ten, 28-foot dump beds to perform

work. The biggest challenge associates face is traffic, dealing with daily traffic congestion that slows down the load turn-around time.

In addition, the team operates a small wastewater treatment plant for the Fayette County Board of Education. Three schools in the Charles Redwine Educational Complex send wastestream to the plant. Associates also spray effluent on 19 acres of sprayfields at the project.



Gwinnett County associate **Shawn Ferguson** stands with the project's newest addition to its fleet of trucks and trailers.

Meet the crew

Ten associates perform work at the DeKalb County and Gwinnett County projects, including Project Manager **Phil Facer**; Administrative Specialist **Debra Minor**; Operator I and Project Safety Team Leader **Clay Jensen**; Equipment Operator II **Keith Lyon**; Land Application Operator **Orlando Usher**; and Land Application Operator **Kelvin Battle**.

In Gwinnett County, there's Equipment Operator II **Shawn Ferguson**; Equipment Operator I **Ferdinand Heramia**; Equipment Operator I **Leroy Crowe**; and Mechanic **Marcus Crow**.



Associates **Keith Lyon**, **Orlando Usher**, **Clay Jensen** and **Kelvin Battle** take a break from doing some roadside tree cleanup.

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Oak Ridge associates find a way

A recent leak under the K-33 Bridge in Oak Ridge, Tenn., put associates' quality tools to practice. Associates found that a 4-inch blow-valve was leaking that was supposed to be attached to a 16-inch fire-water header.



Brainstorming kicked in when the crew discovered the walkway grating was so badly deteriorated that it was unsafe to walk on. Associates rented the rig that is shown in the picture, along with a qualified operator, and completed the needed repairs on the valve. In total, the project took four hours.

Associates **Ronnie Herrell** (in the bottom of the picture), **Jeff Cooper** (in the center of the picture), **Jerry Ridenour** and **Bobby Butler** (standing on the bridge) make the repairs.

First-rate collaboration on first-aid in Key West

Key West, Fla., associates teamed up with a group of Southeast Region CH2M HILL employees to complete a first-aid/CPR course.

In the past, training proved to be difficult because of scheduling conflicts with an outside service that provides course instruction. Associate **Pam Phelps** volunteered to undergo training to become a certified instructor, which qualified her to lead the class. Through Pam's instruction, 27 associates and a few CH2M HILL employees were able to participate and complete the training successfully.

"Pam's certification provides us with more flexibility in scheduling," says Key West Project Manager **Greg Smith**.



Laboratory Analyst **Pam Phelps** (left) instructing CH2M HILL Client Service Manager **Andy Smyth** (kneeling) and Operator **Dennis Benjamin** in first-aid/CPR.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Walla Walla sponsors youth for trip



Student **Samantha Case** holds her donation from Walla Walla associates, which helped fund her trip to Australia.

Walla Walla, Wash., associates contributed \$100 to help sixth-grader **Samantha Case** fund her trip to Australia to participate in the People to People Student Ambassador Program.

During her 14-day trip, **Samantha** learned about the Australian culture and earned high school credits. The objective of the program is to promote an international understanding while building leadership skills among America's youth. The program also includes a meeting with government officials, attending a day at an Australian school, an overnight stay with a native family, a day at a farm and a snorkeling trip.

Supporting the arts in Hood River



Hood River Project Manager **Doug Nichols** presents Columbia Center for the Arts Executive Director **Joanie Thompson** with a contribution.

The Hood River, Ore., project recently contributed \$2,500 to the Columbia Center for the Arts, becoming a Gallery Wall sponsor.

Columbia Center for the Arts is a local, nonprofit organization that showcases exceptional local and regional art through monthly shows and retail space. It also is home to the Columbia Arts Stage Troupe, who perform in the theater, which also is used for artist talks and hosting renters that show films to the public. Columbia Center for the Arts also offers an education and outreach program.

Little people, big crowd in Gilroy/Morgan Hill

The South County Regional Wastewater Authority Plant in Gilroy, Calif., was inundated by more than 240 sixth-grade science students this spring.

Students were broken into smaller groups, and Gilroy/Morgan Hill associates took them on a tour that started at the headworks and proceeded to the solids building, oxidation ditches and clarifiers.

"The kids really enjoyed walking through the lab and seeing the different stages of treatment," says Administrative Specialist **Kara Taylor**. "The koi fish living in reclaimed water was another lab highlight."

"We're very proud of our plant," says Gilroy/Morgan Hill Project Manager **Brenda Miles**. "We host several tours throughout the year; just not as big as this one!"



These students are in for a treat – they get to learn about wastewater treatment.

A night out in Thunderbolt

The Town of Thunderbolt, Ga., participated in this year's National Night Out, an evening for communities across the nation to promote crime and drug prevention. For the second year in a row, CH2M HILL OMI associates helped make the night a success.

Project Manager **Allen Davis** and Administrative Specialist **Angielyn Sanders** visited from nearby Effingham County, and Thunderbolt Meter Reader **Tommy Ingram** and Assistant Project Manager **Gary Johnston** set up a table top display for Night Out visitors to learn more about CH2M HILL OMI. Regional Vice President, Delivery **Herb Washington** also attended.

Gary worked with several vendors and organizations, including the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the Georgia Rural Water Association. One donation, a pallet of water, turned out to be a popular giveaway on the hot August night.

It was truly a community event—some of the town's representatives cooked hot dogs, and the police chief passed out T-shirts.



Thunderbolt, Ga., Alderman **John Cheeks**, Mayor **Anna Maria Thomas**, and Alderwoman **Kimberly Chappell Stevens** stop in front of the CH2M HILL OMI display.



Got news?

Share it with the rest of CH2M HILL OMI!

Send your articles, story ideas and photos to *Of Mutual Interest* Editor **Carolyn Brinkers**. Mail, e-mail (carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com) and fax (720.286.8208) submissions are welcome. Or give Carolyn a call at 720.286.4227.

EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Mark in Milton



From left to right: CH2M HILL OMI President **Mark Lasswell** visits with some municipal services staff, including Field Operations Superintendent **Matt Fallstrom**, **Jim Seeba** with Lowe Engineering, and Field Services Manager **Roddy Notes**.



CLIPP Notes

Solving a mystery: TRC testing with some unusual numbers

By CH2M HILL OMI's Compliance and Reporting Group

The New Haven, Conn., project laboratory was getting some interesting total chlorine residual measurements using a spectrophotometer that weren't consistent with other measurements that had been obtained using TRC analyzers and an in-line TRC meter.

Find out what was causing the inconsistent numbers and how the laboratory staff solved the mystery by going to OMIZone and clicking the *CLIPP Notes* link under the *What's New?* section.

New Haven Laboratory Director **Veisha Jesien** was awarded an Individual Compliance Thinker Award from CH2M HILL OMI's Compliance and Reporting team at PM Summit 2007 for her work in figuring out what was causing the inconsistent measurements.



Go to www.int.ch2m.com/omizone and solve the mystery! Look for the *CLIPP Notes* link under the *What's New?* section.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

World Water Monitoring Day Wondering how to get involved?

We've got lots of tools and tips available to help you get involved with **World Water Monitoring Day**.

World Water Monitoring Day builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world. Organized by the Water Environment Federation, and sponsored by CH2M HILL, World Water Monitoring Day events kick off Sept. 18 and can be held through Oct. 18.

It's another way you can connect with clients and government officials and demonstrate our commitment to environmental and social responsibility. Our goal is to have at least 30 CH2M HILL OMI projects participate in or support WWMD in some way.

Materials are posted on OMIZone to help you plan a brief water-monitoring event. Among the items:

- A 12-minute instructional DVD, produced by CH2M HILL, that outlines exactly how to use the simple testing kit to test water bodies for four water quality parameters: temperature, acidity, clarity and dissolved oxygen. You can get a hard-copy version of the DVD or watch part of it right online.
- Promotional posters to help get other associates involved in WWMD at your location.
- A news release template that you can customize and use to invite media to cover your event.
- Planning tools to help you engage with schools or clients.

Here's a summary of how you can start planning now to participate in World Water Monitoring Day.

1. Decide whether you'd like to invite clients or a school group to participate in WWMD or conduct a testing event together as a project team.
2. Scout out a public water body that you'd like to sample, such as a lake, stream or pond. Be sure it can be accessed safely.
3. Choose a day between Sept. 18 and Oct. 18 to conduct your event.
4. Go to www.worldwatermonitoringday.com and order a testing kit, unless you have your own equipment that you can use instead. Use the site to register your participation in WWMD and the list the water body you plan to test. Please be sure to note you are part of CH2M HILL so that our company's collective results can be assembled.
5. Invite your clients or anyone else you'd like to help educate about water quality. If you plan to join with a school's science class, a Scout group, etc., you should begin talking to the teachers or sponsors as soon as possible to ensure the class or group can participate.
6. Consider how you can get media to attend. You can customize and then e-mail the news release to local media about a week before the event is scheduled to take place or ask the school to handle media outreach.

If you can't host or plan a complete water-testing event, you could also:

- Obtain a DVD that talks about World Water Monitoring Day from Corporate Communications Coordinator **Julie Kauffman** and send it to your clients and invite them to use the tool.

- Buy water-testing kits from the Web site and donate them to science teachers or other school groups so they can celebrate WWMD thanks to your sponsorship.
- Ask your mayor or city council to proclaim Tuesday, Sept. 18, as World Water Monitoring Day.

Your collective participation in WWMD activities will help educate hundreds of people about the value of their watersheds, will help WEF track water quality trends nationwide, and will give you another community service item to promote with your clients and in your CCR reports.

No matter what you do to celebrate WWMD, please tell us all about it! Send your event photos and stories to Julie for use on OMIZone, in future editions of *Of Mutual Interest* and in corporate publications. Julie also can help if you have questions or need assistance as you begin to plan for WWMD.



Last year, Walla Walla Laboratory Analyst **Nela Rice** helped Cub Scout Pack 311 take sample results at four different streams.

Community involvement at company's core

What have you done in your community lately? If you're like most CH2M HILL OMI associates, chances are you can say "a lot!"

Our company's commitment to community service is one of the ways we set ourselves apart from our competitors. Whether we participate in large, national events or simply pick up trash at a park, every act helps the communities where we live and work.

Associates and projects have numerous opportunities to participate in activities throughout the year. To help support these efforts, every project receives specific funding to devote to community relations. When you're considering community activities, aim to choose activities that not only help the community but also foster better relationships with your clients or align with CH2M HILL OMI's overall business strategy by focusing on issues such as protecting the environment, education, social activities (for example, senior citizen outreach, homeless or hunger programs) or other areas of community importance.



Last year, associates in Hinesville, Ga., supported the Manna House, a nonprofit organization that assists those less fortunate by providing them with food and clothing. Here, Hinesville Public Works Mechanic **Douglas Thornton** (left) and Public Utilities Lead Operator **Gary Carey** deliver food for Thanksgiving.

At a company level, CH2M HILL OMI sponsors and encourages your participation in two large community events each year:

- The first is the **Water For People Giving Campaign** during National Drinking Water Week (held the first full week in May each year) and the entire month of May. Water For People, an international nonprofit organization, helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities, and health and hygiene education programs. This year, the CH2M HILL enterprise raised more than \$92,000 in employee contributions.
- Coming this month is **World Water Monitoring Day**, honored on Sept. 18. The Water Environment Federation organizes this month-long activity that encourages people to monitor the health of their local water sources along with schoolchildren, clients and partners. We're asking all CH2M HILL OMI projects to consider participating in WWMD events. (Please see the story above for more information.)

You can become a respected partner in your community in many other ways, from hosting an open house at your plant to a park clean-up or donating time at your city's annual parade—all these events make a difference. Here are some additional ideas to help you strengthen your community ties:

- **Earth Day:** April 22 is a day to increase awareness of our environment and take actions to help protect our planet. Earth Day is a good opportunity to sponsor a clean-up or host an open house to show the environmental benefits of what CH2M HILL OMI does every day to help our environment.
- **Arbor Day:** Beautify your community or project by planting some trees for Arbor Day on April 25, a nationally celebrated observance that celebrates tree planting and care. Trees help absorb carbon dioxide, pull particulate matter from the air, prevent floods and help keep temperatures down.

- **Take Your Daughter/Son to Work Day:** Organize an educational event April 24 to teach kids about what goes on behind the scenes at your project. The goal of this day is to expand opportunities for girls and boys, expose them to what adults in their lives do during the work day, show them the value of their education and give them an opportunity to envision their future.
- **National Public Works Week:** Sponsored by the American Public Works Association each year in May, National Public Works Week is a great way to shine the spotlight on the significance of our work in the communities where we work and live. Check out www.apwa.net for some great ideas.
- **Back to school:** Consider ways you can support schoolchildren in your community who may need help with school supplies or back-to-school clothing.
- **Veterans Day:** On Nov. 11, take a few minutes to thank a veteran. This also is a great time to join a community group that is cleaning a veterans' cemetery, placing flags or holding an appreciation event.

Finally, while a consumer confidence report is mandatory, it's also a good opportunity to include information on your project's presence and activities in your community. The Corporate Communications department is available to assist you with your consumer confidence report's content, design and printing.

Let us know how the Communications team can help you with community relations ideas, lend displays and banners for events, or provide you with information on how to reach out to your schools or clients. We also can help publicize the good work that you're doing in your community, both before and after the event. For more information, please contact Corporate Communications Coordinator **Julie Kauffman** at 720.286.4279 or julie.kauffman@ch2m.com.

ALL ABOUT YOU

New associates

Name	Position	Location
Odonell Alfonso	Sanitation Worker	The Villages
Syreetta Andrews Whitfield	Executive Assistant	Johns Creek
Thomas Bittler	Project Manager I	Honeywell Syracuse
Rene Cousineau	Manager, Profit Planning and Performance Analysis	Atlanta
Stephen Creek	Instrumentation & Control Technician	Rio Rancho
Jonathan Cunningham	Utility Service Worker	Oak Ridge
Daniel Drake	Director of Public Works	Milton
Charles Futch	Utility Worker	Hinesville
Blondell Gathright	Accountant I	Johns Creek
Jacob Godwin	Utility Worker	Mary Esther
John Gross	Industrial Technician-In-Training	DuPont Belle
Steven Haley	Human Resources Manager	Sandy Springs
Kathy Hall	Senior Sub-Contract Administrator	Atlanta
Jerry Hill	Operator	Sweet Home
Jason Holbert	Industrial Technician	Turlock
Jeffrey Kaszubowski	Regional Business Analyst	Denver
Angela Kirkwood	Human Resources Manager	Johns Creek
Timothy Liles	Operator	Live Oak
Matthew McAndrew	Laboratory Analyst I	West Liberty
Elizabeth Norris	Laboratory Analyst I	Rio Rancho
Ronnie Phelps	Industrial Technician	Turlock
Melinda Prado	Laboratory Analyst I	Farmington
Duane Reische	Mechanic	Gilroy
Demetris Roberts	Utility Worker	Hinesville
Andrea Roux	Executive Assistant	Atlanta
Natalie Schieber	Operator	Lebanon
Jackie Scott	Utility Worker	Hinesville
Jamarco Smith	Utility Worker	Hinesville
Robert Spencer	Laboratory Director	The Villages
Samuel Stapleton	Operator	Live Oak
Jamie Walthour	Utility Worker	Hinesville
Matthew Winchell	Utility Worker	Rio Rancho
Maynard Witherspoon	Operator I	The Villages
Jose Yambo	Sanitation Worker	The Villages

Each month, we're awarding a \$25 gift certificate to a new associate. Congratulations to Dodge City, Kan., Mechanic-in-Training Cody Woods, who won July's drawing. Cody was chosen in a random drawing by Human Resources Vice President Shelie Gustafson. Watch this space next month to find out who the August winner is!

Promotions

Name	Position	Location
Richard Alvarez	Mechanic	Taos
Melvin Bowers	Mechanic	Turlock
Douglas Doyle	Equipment Operator II - Streets	Effingham County
Robert Emery	Meter Reader	The Villages
Jeffrey Garris	Equipment Operator II - Streets	Effingham County
Ken Hamilton	Operations Supervisor	Ashtabula
Stephen Hilliard	Operator	Americus
Mathew Horn	Director of City Operations	Sandy Springs
Jeffery Houchin	Lead Operator	Lebanon
Christopher Humbert	Operator I	Prescott Valley
Michael Jakymiw	Operations Manager - Large Projects	Rio Rancho
Samuel Lee	Operator-in-Training	Oak Ridge
Ben Looney	Project Manager II	Dodge City
Edward Lujan	Operator	Gilroy/Morgan Hill
Juan Mancha	Operations Manager - Large Projects	Prescott Valley
Anthony Martinez	Project Manager II	Grants
Burt Mason	Operator II	Fulton County
Edwin Meares	Operator II	Fulton County
Christopher Nations	Municipal Services Specialist	Milton
William Sanders Jr.	Team Leader - Streets	Live Oak
Adan Sarduy	Laboratory Analyst II	Hoboken
Kenneth Vose	Project Manager I	Heinz
Robert Wheeler	Building Plan Reviewer	Sandy Springs
Matthew Winchell	Utility Worker II	Rio Rancho

Certifications

Name	Certification	Location
Wayne Duran	New Mexico Water Distribution Operator Class 1	Grants
Robert Hays	New Mexico Water System Operator Class 2	Grants
Russell Spencer	Idaho Wastewater Operator Class 1	Heinz

Service awards

Name	Position	Years
Jane Walter	Sales Director	20
Douglas Miller	Director of Consulting Services	15
Keith Bell	Lead Mechanic	5
Moses Allen	Operator-In-Training	5
Sandra Hillenbrand	Executive Administrative Coordinator	5

Beating back-to-school anxiety

The transition into a new school year can be a time of excitement as well as stress.

Children and adults can become anxious, irritable or depressed by this major change. The trick to fighting the back-to-school anxiety is to start preparing in advance. Here are some tips.

Kindergarten through fifth grade – kids need to talk

- **Talk about it.** Talk with your elementary age children about their excitement, and stress some of the benefits, such as seeing friends and playing sports.
- **Give them some control.** Be firm that they do have to go to school, but give them control over some simple choices, such as buying or bringing lunch or riding the bus or riding their bike to school.

Teens want you to listen

- **Keep communication lines open.** Teens want you to listen to their back-to-school concerns

but not judge. Do everything possible to keep the lines of communication open at this critical age.

- **Look for patterns.** A wild new hairdo? No problem. Purple hair AND scary new friends AND a drop in grades? Now it's time to worry.

Adult students need encouragement, too

- **Focus on your goals.** Remind yourself why you are going back to school—maybe a new job or a promotion.
- **Remember that you're not alone.** Other non-traditional students have made it through this, and it's normal to be a little anxious or fearful.

Additional information, self-help tools and other resources are available online at www.magellanhealth.com. Or call Magellan at 800.888.2273 for more information, help and support. Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide confidential assistance at no cost to you.

Source: Magellan Health Services

Long-time associate passes away

Associate **Melvin Adams**, who worked as Lead Mechanic in Americus, Ga., passed away in July. Melvin had been with CH2M HILL OMI since the company began providing operations and maintenance service to Americus in 1994.

Melvin was recognized by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals with two commendations last year: the Top Operator Award and the Top Mechanic Award.

In addition to last year's awards, Melvin had a distinguished tenure during his career with CH2M HILL OMI. He earned a Georgia Class I wastewater license, a Georgia Class II water license and a Georgia Class A commercial drivers license with tanker endorsement. He also helped to develop and implement the Americus quality program and served as its chair. Melvin was a member of the safety team and had no lost-time accidents during his employment. He was chosen as the Americus employee of the month eight times and the employee of the year twice. Melvin also was involved in Americus' community efforts, participating in the Adopt a Highway program and the Rivers Alive Clean-up.

"Melvin was an integral part of the Americus team contributing greatly to its success, and he will be missed," says Americus Project Manager **Rick Leisner**. "He was respected and loved by all who knew him."



Melvin Adams received the GAWP Top Operator Award and the Top Mechanic Award last year.

Henry Huffman Memorial Scholarship recipients announced

CH2M HILL OMI has announced the recipients of the Henry Huffman Memorial Scholarship program:

- **Mayra Calderon**, daughter of Del Rio, Texas, Lead Operator **Alejandro Calderon**
- **Hans Duong**, son of Fayetteville, Ark., Project Manager **Duyen Tran**
- **Shannon Moon**, daughter of Regional Business Manager **Mike Moon**
- **Victoria Peebles**, daughter of Swainsboro, Ga., Maintenance Supervisor **Donald Peebles**
- **Kirby Wilson**, daughter of Washington, Ga., Administrative Specialist **Kelly Wilson**
- **Samantha Young**, daughter of West and Central Regional Director of Operations **Gary Young**

Each student receives \$1,500 to help fund tuition at the college of his or her choice. A team of university professors judged the applications based on college entrance exam scores, grade point average, extracurricular activities and a 1,200 word essay. Look for more details about the winners in the September issue of *Of Mutual Interest*.

The company's scholarship program was renamed the Henry Huffman Memorial Scholarship program in honor of 17-year associate **Henry Huffman**, who passed away last year.

AROUND THE COMPANY



Linking partners, friends and employees of CH2M HILL OMI

NewsSplash



Refreshed 'NewsSplash' client newsletter relaunched

To help further strengthen our connections with clients, CH2M HILL OMI has redesigned and relaunched *NewsSplash*, our company's externally focused e-newsletter.

Last issued in 2005, a new issue of *NewsSplash* hit e-mail in-boxes Aug. 16 to help share good news with our clients about our company, our partners, our conferences and trade show exhibitions, and more. The first issue featured our recent renewals, our successful Water For People campaign and our sponsorship of the American Water Works Association's Top Ops competition.

By connecting with our customers every month, we aim to continue reinforcing the message that CH2M HILL OMI is a talented, valued partner of choice and a leader in providing innovative utility, community and environmental solutions. We also will benefit by keeping our name and brand in front of our clients and providing them with relevant, interesting information.

How can you help? Visit our external Web site at www.omi.ch2mhill.com and look for the *NewsSplash* registration link. Then invite your clients to visit the site and sign up to receive our news. While the e-newsletter is designed with our clients in mind, we encourage you to subscribe to it as well.

Each month's issue will include news tidbits in general categories: our company, our partners, our industry, our awards, and our community relations activities. We'll also list upcoming conferences where our clients can visit us and learn more information about CH2M HILL OMI's operations, consulting and municipal services.

We hope *NewsSplash* will be another valuable communications tool you can use with your clients. If you have feedback or news items to suggest, please contact Corporate Communications Manager Kara Choquette at 720.286.1257 or kara.choquette@ch2m.com.

Now careers site makes it easier to recruit, refer associates

How will CH2M HILL OMI achieve our vision of being the recognized leader in providing innovative utility, community and environmental solutions? By recruiting top talent.

And with the rollout of the company's new O&M careers microsite, recruiting and referring new talent to CH2M HILL OMI just became easier. There's no more need to comb through endless enterprise opportunities – www.careers.ch2m.com/omi provides prospective employees with company background and a complete list of all CH2M HILL OMI openings.

For those interested in the growing list of opportunities in Municipal Services, there's even a quick link directly to those opportunities, and the site also provides links to the Sandy Springs, Johns Creek and Milton, Ga., Web sites. It also provides a list of upcoming conferences where prospective employees can network with CH2M HILL OMI staff. So the next time someone asks you how to find out about career opportunities with CH2M HILL OMI, you can say, "Visit our careers site."



Do you know someone who might make a good addition to CH2M HILL OMI? Have them visit www.careers.ch2m.com/omi to find the latest career opportunities.

Kiosks build bridge to remote project sites

A new tool is being implemented at project sites in an effort to offer electronic communication channels to all associates.



This user is using a kiosk to explore what's on OMIZone. The kiosk is the little gray box to the right of the computer monitor.

For those projects that do not have a dedicated computer for associates to use, new "kiosk" devices are being installed. The kiosks connect to a keyboard and a monitor. Once the kiosk is installed and connected to the CH2M HILL network, associates can visit OMIZone, the Virtual Office, check e-mails through the CH2M HILL Webmail site, access other CH2M HILL shared computing resources, and participate in online enterprise initiatives, such as opinion surveys.

Kiosks will be most beneficial where inexpensive and limited computer resources are needed and a high-speed Internet connection is available. Using both a "thin client" hardware model and Citrix Terminal Services, the kiosk, roughly the size of a VHS video tape, will bring computer access to associates at projects where general computer access has not been previously possible.

A kiosk has no moving parts (such as a fan or a hard drive), and it establishes a direct connection to the CH2M HILL corporate network. There's no need to access the network via the VPN. IT support is less frequent than a full desktop computer because the kiosk accounts are centrally managed, and virtually no local software or hardware can malfunction.

For questions about getting started on a kiosk or questions about ongoing hardware, software, and account support issues, please contact the Technical Assistance Center (TAC) at 866.DIAL.TAC.



Get all the latest company news by logging on to OMIZone at www.int.ch2m.com/omizone/.

ofmutualinterest
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI FOR THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI

Share your news

We rely on your news so we can tell everyone what's happening at our company. So tell us about community involvement, new contracts or renewals, awards, client feedback, an innovative solution, associate achievements, project celebrations and safety successes, and we'll tell the rest of CH2M HILL OMI.

Send as much basic information (the news, names, job titles, location and date) as you can. We'll write the story and contact you if we need more information. The best way to enhance your story is with pictures, or copies of client letters or certificates. When you send pictures, include the names of everyone in the photo, identified from left to right. And if the picture is of a "thing," tell us what it is (for example, pump repair work). Shoot your pictures in the highest possible resolution, and send them in their original format (for example, .jpg or .bmp).

Send your articles, story ideas and photos to *Of Mutual Interest* Editor Carolyn Brinkers. Mail, e-mail (carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com) and fax (720.286.8208) submissions are welcome. Or give Carolyn a call at 720.286.4227.

Of Mutual Interest is an internal newsletter intended for the associates of CH2M HILL OMI.

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In the next issue



Celebrating National Public Works Week in Walla Walla, Wash.

Going green

Find out more about sustainability and what you can do to help the environment.