

# of mutual interest

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE O&MBG FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE O&MBG

**July/August** 2009

## In this issue

Page 2

Racking up awards across the company – read all about them!



Page 6

Take advantage of CH2M HILL's Applied Sciences Laboratory



## Water For People support reaches new heights



*Thanks to the generosity of employees, thousands of children will have access to clean, safe water and improved sanitation.*

This year, employees supported the Water For People Workplace Giving Campaign in an unprecedented fashion by donating more than \$229,000 to support its vision of a world where no one dies from a water- or sanitation-related disease.

"The generosity shown by employees throughout our company amazes me," says President **Elisa M. Speranza**, who also is president of Water For People. "The current economy can make it difficult for people to give at past levels; however, our associates looked beyond the day-to-day economy and consequently made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of people."

Water For People estimates that it costs just \$29 to provide someone with safe water or improved sanitation for a lifetime through one of their projects. With the donation of \$229,000, CH2M HILL employees have transformed approximately 7,900 lives, opening up a new world that reduces sickness, infant mortality and poverty while increasing education and opportunity.

"The 2009 Workplace Giving Campaign was truly a global affair," says Communications Coordinator **Julie Kauffman**, who organized the enterprise campaign. "We not only had donations from projects throughout the United States and Canada, but offices in locations as diverse as Buenos Aires, Argentina; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; London, Great Britain; and Shanghai, China, conducted campaigns – many for the first time. The global offices really came through this year."

CH2M HILL has supported Water For People since the organization was founded in 1991. In addition to the annual Workplace Giving Campaign, CH2M HILL supports the organization with an annual gift and sponsors other fundraising activities throughout the year.

The 2009 Workplace Giving Campaign set a new record for Water For People, topping the amount raised by American Water employees earlier this year. CH2M HILL employees have donated more than \$641,000 since the initial Workplace Giving Campaign in 2003.

"On behalf of the people and the lives you have changed with your generosity," says Elisa, "thank you very, very much."



Public Works Manager **Roddy Motes** makes a donation in Milton, Ga.

## Let's hear it for public works — celebrating across the company

Many employees took time in May to celebrate National Public Works Week 2009, observed every year during the third full week of May.

The week is a celebration of the men and women who provide and maintain the infrastructure and services collectively known as public works. Instituted as a public education campaign by the American Public Works Association in 1960, National Public Works Week calls attention to the importance of public works in community life and seeks to enhance the prestige of the often-unsung heroes of our society – the professionals who serve the public good every day with quiet dedication.

Those heroes include about 500 of our employees. From Centennial, Colo., to Live Oak, Fla., and a few places in between, here's how we celebrated:

- **Centennial, Colo.** – Hosted a pizza luncheon for public works staff, subcontractors and city staff.

- **Hinesville, Ga.** – Visited a class to talk about public works, then demonstrated how a street sweeper works. (See photo below.)
- **Live Oak, Fla.** – Following a school presentation on Monday, employees hosted an open house at city hall on Wednesday. The week of celebration wrapped up with an employee-appreciation lunch. Mayor Sonny Nobles issued a proclamation, pointing out that public works employees not only pick up trash and repair sidewalks, but also help the community recover after storms such as Hurricane Faye.
- **Richmond Hill, Ga.** – After Mayor Richard Davis issued a proclamation, O&MBG employees and city staff visited three elementary schools to raise community awareness and educate the next generation about public works. Employees also got to place a banner next to city hall.
- **Sandy Springs, Ga.** – Employees and subcontractors were treated to breakfast and door prizes.

Councilmember Dianne Fries thanked everyone for their hard work to the city.

- **Thunderbolt, Ga.** – Mayor Anna Marie Thomas issued a proclamation, and a banner displayed at the town hall commemorated the week. (See photo below.)

Delivering public works has been part of the O&MBG's business since 1992. Today, our employees deliver public works services in 17 cities and counties across six states: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, New Mexico and Oregon.



Visit our Public Works Weeks photo gallery on O&MZone at [www.int.ch2m.com/omzone/news/galleries/2009/public\\_works\\_week/index.htm](http://www.int.ch2m.com/omzone/news/galleries/2009/public_works_week/index.htm).

Find out more about National Public Works Week at [www.apwa.net/About/NPWW/](http://www.apwa.net/About/NPWW/).



Hinesville Project Manager **Gary Gilliard** (middle), pictured here with Jordye Bacon elementary school students, talked to kids in the classroom, then took them outside to check out the street sweeper. Equipment Operator **James Hendry** (far left) explained how the sweeper works to keep streets in the community clean. The first graders got to take home a CH2M HILL pencil. Hinesville is our first public works project, dating back to 1992.



Folks in Thunderbolt, Ga., were reminded about the importance of public works from this banner displayed at town hall to commemorate the week.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

## Arkansas and New Mexico: awards for our people, projects

Fayetteville, Ark., Laboratory Analyst II **Nicholas King** recently earned laboratory honors, and two New Mexico projects, Farmington and Grants, earned awards for facility improvements.

Nick received the 2009 Laboratory Analyst of the Year Award for excellence in laboratory analysis from the Arkansas Water Environment Association at its annual conference, held in Hot Springs in May.



Nick shows off his Laboratory Analyst of the Year Award.

“Nick was instrumental in the set-up and start-up of the city’s new West Side Wastewater Treatment facility laboratory last year,” says Laboratory Director **Bruce Richart**.

The New Mexico Water & Wastewater Association gave the President’s Award for the most improved wastewater treatment plant of the year to the Farmington facility in the Northwest Section and to the Grants facility in the West Central Section. Both awards were presented at the 2009 NMWWA banquet, held earlier this year in Las Cruces, and recognize the planning and work that has improved the wastewater systems at both facilities.

“The Farmington facility has gone through several expansions and upgrades during the last several years, along with all associated piping, splitter boxes, additional chlorine contact base, new drying beds and landscaping,” says Project Director **Ron Rosen**. “Additionally, the team works hard to maintain the appearance of everything to like-new status. This is why we received the President’s award, which we are very proud to operate and maintain for the city of Farmington.”

The city of Grants recommended improvements be made to its main wastewater lift station and plant to help improve the system’s infrastructure and energy minimization. The rehabilitation included a new influent bar screen, new high-efficiency pumps, VFD controls and an influent grinder to enhance the pumps’ efficiency.

“The rehabilitation has improved the reliability of the lift station, which assists in permit compliance and environmental standards,” says Project Manager **Anthony Martinez**. “The improvements have made the plant more energy-efficient and safer to operate. The lift station energy demand has decreased by nearly 25 percent.”

The city of Farmington selected CH2M HILL’s O&MBG to operate and manage its water and wastewater system in 1999 – 42 employees serve a population of 50,000. The city of Grants hired CH2M HILL’s O&MBG to start up and operate its wastewater treatment facility in November 1988, serving a population of 10,000. And a team of 35 O&MBG employees have served the city of Fayetteville through operations and maintenance of its wastewater treatment plants since 1987.

## Georgia employees rock on with gold, platinum awards

Our employees in Georgia continued their tradition of operations and maintenance performance excellence in May by winning 11 awards from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

Two projects won the State Plant of the Year Award. Fulton County’s Big Creek won for advanced treatment wastewater facilities greater than 10-mgd, and the Swainsboro wastewater facility won in the 1.1 to 10.0-mgd secondary treatment category.

Fulton County Project Manager **John Bartelmo** commented on the award. “This is a major accomplishment for our team in Fulton. It is especially important for the Big Creek staff and our Plant of the Year task team. We have been working on this goal for eight years, and the persistence and hard work has finally paid off,” says John.

In addition, a number of our projects won Gold and Platinum awards. GAWP’s Gold Award recognizes one full year of perfect compliance with Georgia permitting regulations, and the Platinum Award honors plants that have operated without permitting violations for five years or more.

- Americus – our partner since 1994  
Water: 5-Year Platinum Award  
Wastewater – Little River: 6-Year Platinum Award
- Barnesville – our partner since 1995  
Water: Gold Award  
Wastewater – Little River Land Application System: Gold Award
- Fulton County – our partner since 1995  
Wastewater – Big Creek: 6-Year Platinum Award  
Wastewater – Johns Creek: 6-Year Platinum Award
- Swainsboro – our partner since 1992  
Water: 6-Year Platinum Award  
Wastewater: 6-Year Platinum Award

Americus Operator **Bruce Watson** took individual honors, winning an Operator of the Year Award in his district in the wastewater category.

“I couldn’t be more proud of these project teams and all of the support resources it takes to win these awards. Compliance is what we do, and I’m amazed at the level of effort these folks put into even one year of compliance, let alone 5 to 6 years,” says East Regional Business Group Manager **Gary Wood**. “These are not shiny new facilities with the latest technology; the most recent significant upgrade at any of these plants was probably at least 15 years ago. What a great reminder of the service our associates provide to their local communities and our environment.”

Gary also acknowledged the efforts of our Regional Technical Specialists and the East Region’s Major Maintenance Team for giving project teams an extra hand. And he pointed out that although the Augusta project did not receive a Platinum Award due to a huge industrial slug load and nearly eight inches of rain in one weekend, the team did exceed 5 years of full compliance. GWAP bases the award on calendar years, and Augusta was just 14-15 days short after nearly 5 years and 6 months of full compliance.

The awards were presented at GAWP’s spring conference, which recognizes the best facilities and plant operators in the state each year, and offers technical and educational sessions on water and wastewater operations.

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals is a not-for-profit educational association of more than 5,000 operators, owners, contractors, engineers, elected officials, industry representatives and others concerned with Georgia’s water resources. GAWP is affiliated with several professional organizations, including the Water Environment Federation, American Water Works Association, and the Georgia Ground Water Association.

## Prescott Valley employees take 3 awards



From left to right: **Stefan Padilla, Guy Crawford and Shane Shatzer**.

The management team who helps deliver O&M services for the town of Prescott Valley, Ariz., took home a trifecta of supervisor awards at the Arizona Water Awards luncheon, held in late May in Glendale, Ariz.

Wastewater Supervisor **Guy Crawford** was honored with the Wastewater Supervisor of the Year Award, Water Operations and Maintenance Supervisor **Stefan Padilla** was honored with the Water Operations Supervisor of the Year Award, and Collections Distribution Supervisor **Shane Shatzer** was honored with the Distribution Operations Supervisor of the Year Award.

All three awards were classified in the less than 50,000 population category. Yearly awards are administered by the Arizona Water & Pollution Control Association.

“When submitting the award applications, I could not make a decision among Guy, Stefan and Shane, so I decided to nominate all three,” says Project Director **John Bowman**. “The Arizona Water Awards committee came to the same conclusion: all three men exhibited award-winning performances by delivering exceptional utilities services to the town of Prescott Valley and its residents.”

Since 1997, CH2M HILL’s O&MBG has operated Prescott Valley’s wastewater treatment facilities, including O&M of the municipal water system, the collection system, and the reclaimed water and recharge system. The Prescott Valley Town Council unanimously approved a new 5-year contract in April 2008 to continue its partnership with CH2M HILL into 2013.

RENEWALS & NEW BIZ

## Lehigh County continues partnership

The Lehigh County Authority voted unanimously in late May to continue its partnership with CH2M HILL's O&MBG for operations and maintenance of its Pennsylvania treatment plant, effective June 1.

The contract has an initial term of 5 years, followed by three additional 5-year options for a potential contract total of 20 years, ending in 2028.

The contract renewal was extremely competitive; LCA received four proposals, including ours, Severn Trent, EMC and Miller Environmental. The renewal team secured a difficult contract renewal thanks to the everyday excellence our associates display.

"The experience and proven performance of Bill and the on-site project team made it impossible for the client to select anyone else," says Sales Director **George Cartledge**.

The pursuit team, which included Project Manager **Bill Haberstroh** and the project team, Commercial Director **Andy Appleton**, Contracts Director **Darrell Collett**, Regional Business Analyst **Jennifer Keola**, Regional Technical Manager **John Rickermann**, Regional Maintenance Specialist **Matt Crowley**, Regional Vice President of Delivery **Gregg Higgins**, Proposal Coordinator **Catherine Wheeler** and Intern **Jake Peck**, proved key. Our on-site and off-site staff and management, in addition to Matt's detailed maintenance approach, demonstrated our knowledge of the assets, which also helped secure the contract renewal.



Lehigh County employees. Front row, from left to right: **Diane Holder, Scott Ammon, Tony Mazziotta and Barbara Lilly.** Back row, left to right: **Tony Herstich, Toby Mosser, Dean Vermeulen, Joe Yandersits, Charlie Yost and Bill Haberstroh.**

"After submitting our proposal in February, the team worked together to provide and explain in great detail three different approaches and prices in response to our client's requests," explains George. "Each approach required adjustments to contract language. In the end, we proved that CH2M HILL was the best-value partner regardless of the approach taken."

Likewise, plant execution also helped with the renewal. Employees facilitate an effective waste-hauler program that generates revenue for the client. They developed and implemented the program to provide steady and predictable income for LCA, and Bill and his team have fine-tuned a high-strength industrial waste process to the point where they have never had to ask an industry to stop its discharge.

An additional factor that assisted in winning the renewal was the team's safety record. In fact, the Lehigh team has worked more than 74,000 hours without an occupational injury or illness resulting in days away from work. We told you about two safety awards the team earned in our last issue of *Of Mutual Interest*. They also earned the 2008 Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association Plant Safety Award – Class II and the 2008 National Safety Council Perfect Record Award.

The team also has been recognized for O&M excellence, winning the 2990 Mark B. Hannum Plant Operations & Maintenance Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association.

"Our long-term relationship with LCA helped us work through the procurement process to get a contract that is truly a win-win for the residents and industries served by this facility," says Gregg. "I want to give a special thanks to our project staff for all of their hard work and dedication over the many years we have worked at Lehigh. They are an awesome team of professionals and the lion's share of this success is due to their performance day in and day out."

## It's 5 more years for Texas team

The city council in Temple, Texas, voted unanimously in late May to approve a 5-year contract renewal with CH2M HILL's O&MBG for O&M services – a vote that came 4 months early – extending our partnership to 2014.



The Temple team. Front row, from left to right: **Chris Parker, Carrie Weir and John Petru.** Back row, from left to right: **Patrick O'Brien, Rodney Whitworth and Michael Lehnick.**

"The early non-compete renewal for team Temple is another example of great leadership and continued hard work," says Regional Business Manager **Oswaldo Garza**. "The strategy behind our success was building a strong client relationship and proving ourselves to a public works director who was against contract operations. Project Manager **Chris Parker**, along with the entire Temple team, gained the director's support and transformed his thinking only to hear him say that any other company would have to outdo what we do best, and that's 'great work.'"

"Our associates in Temple do an outstanding job," says Director of Regional Operations **Kirby Chaney**. "Chris is a leader in many areas, especially safety."

"Our success is due to the values we took to heart early on. Associates **Carrie Weir, John Petru** and I have been here since the beginning, and we instill those values with other staff members who have come and gone through the years," says Chris.

Temple, located in central Texas, began its partnership with our company in 1994. The city's wastewater facility serves nearly 55,000 citizens. In addition to operating and maintaining the wastewater facility, a team of six associates operates 28 lift stations and administers the industrial pretreatment program.

SAFETY BEGINS WITH ME

## Hoboken s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-s



Hoboken, N.J., employees now begin safety tailgate meetings with a stretching routine, which began after they commented on how good it feels to stretch. One of the greatest benefits of stretching is that you're able to increase your range of motion by lengthening muscles.

## Sparks fly in Mary Esther

Regional Maintenance Specialist **Dave Danko** and Regional Health & Safety Manager **Mike Rapien** facilitated a training class on electrical safety and arc flash in April.

The training was held in Mary Esther, Fla., and is a rollout of a new program that consists of classroom study. After the classroom work session, Dave and Mike conducted a hands-on test of a live electrical panel to help familiarize attendees with the lessons they learned in the classroom.

Lowndes County, Ga., Maintenance Manager **Clyde Hall**, DeFuniak Springs, Fla., Maintenance Supervisor **Harold McCorkle**, Crestview, Fla., Operator **Thom Williams**, and Mary Esther's Operator-in-Training **James Nelson**, Utility Worker **Brandon Mitchell**, Project Manager **David Coup**, Lead Operator **Stewart Duncan**, and Collections Supervisor **Steve Trainor** all attended the event.



**James Nelson** (left) and **Brandon Mitchell** practice electrical safety training hands-on. Brandon is holding a fluke multimeter, which is used to test volts and ohms.



Employees watch an electrical safety demonstration in Mary Esther, Fla.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## Taking out the trash in Barnesville

An eight-person team in Barnesville, Ga., helped out at the city's fifth annual BBQ & Blues festival in late April, cleaning up downtown Barnesville by collecting more than seven tons of trash on the final day of the event.

More than 40 competition teams, some of the top names in blues and soul music, and countless numbers of festival goers and barbecue connoisseurs, came to the event. The normally quiet city becomes quite a mess during the 3-day celebration.

One way festival attendance is measured is by the amount of trash generated. Employees **Milton Odom, Heath Autrey, Warren Johnson, Brandon Carr, Charles Peters, Danny Moss, Travis Carr** and **Clay Jensen** worked from 8 a.m. – 12 noon, cleaning up the downtown area, which included 85 trash receptacles, 15 recycling bins, 12 square blocks of downtown streets, 3 parking lots, parking blocks and pedestrian areas.

A recycle drive, sponsored by a local newspaper, resulted in more than one ton of recyclables from the seven tons of garbage collected.

"We live in a small city, and we all take pride in it," says Milton. "Our city workers alone would not be able to maintain the standards our community has set. We take our job seriously and uphold not only the standards of Barnesville, but the standards of our company."

The O&MBG has operated Barnesville's water treatment facilities for nearly 15 years.



Streets Supervisor **Milton Odom** (left) and Barnesville BBQ & Blues event chairperson **TJ Imberger** assess the event situation.

## Centennial rocks out

Centennial, Colo., Public Works Program Director **Richard Lewis** volunteered to help with the Centennial Youth Commission's first annual Centennial Youth Battle of the Bands in June.

Richard helped monitor the event during the day, and in the evening, he hauled tables, chairs and water back to the civic center. Eight bands and approximately 500 people attended the event.

The O&MBG has operated Centennial's public works department since July 2008, serving a population of 100,000.



From left to right: Centennial City Attorney **Bob Widner**, Mayor **Randy Pye**, **Richard Lewis** and City Manager **Jacque Wedding-Scott** rock out at the Centennial Youth Battle of the Bands.

## Relay raises funds to fight cancer

After nearly a year of planning, the first Johns Creek "Relay for Life" fundraising event, held April 17, was a big success, raising \$114,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Held at Taylor Road Middle School's track, the 12-hour event attracted more than 2,000 participants from across metro Atlanta, many of them cancer survivors or supporters.

Pulling off a 100-percent volunteer event wasn't easy and would not have happened without the dedicated efforts of O&MBG Johns Creek employees – key among them, Office Manager **Cindy Moseley** and Executive Assistants **Syreeta Andrews-Whitfield** and **Allison Tarpley**.



Pictured, from left to right, are Operations Director **Sheryl Boell**, Community Development Director **Mike Williams**, Zoning Administrator **Justin Kirouac**, Planner **Maryanne Koutrelakos**, Community Development Deputy Director **Susan Canon**, Field Operations Superintendent **Sam Durrance** and Program Assistant **Corrine Lindo**. Executive Assistant **Allison Tarpley** is kneeling.

For many months, these hard-working women met with American Cancer Society organizers and representatives from the Relay's key sponsors to coordinate the logistics. From deciding where to lay power lines to preventing parking/transportation nightmares and making sure all vendors had appropriate tents and signage, **Cindy**, **Syreeta** and **Allison** handled it all with a smile.

"I would like to give kudos to these dedicated women for representing our company so well and helping the client with an extremely successful, first-time community service event," says Communications Manager **Rosemary Taylor**.

The O&MBG has provided municipal services to the city of Johns Creek since 2006.

## Cleaning up our communities for Earth Day

In the last issue of *Of Mutual Interest*, we told you how employees in New Haven, Conn., and Hoboken, N.J., celebrated Earth Day in their communities. Employees in Colorado and Georgia also got in on the act and came together to clean streams, parks and roadways.

In Centennial, Colo., Willow Creek is cleaner thanks to the efforts of more than 40 volunteers and employees who cleared more than two tons of trash along two portions of the creek in less than 4 hours.

"We had a great turnout for our first clean-up," says Senior Technical Specialist **Alan Ridgeway**, who organized the event with assistance from Denver and Centennial O&MBG employees. "More than 20 residents of the neighborhood, including children as young as three, teamed up with almost 20 associates and subcontractors."

The Willow Creek clean-up was a joint effort by CH2M HILL's O&MBG, American Civil Constructors and AECOM, the three companies that provide public works services to Centennial under the direction of CH2M HILL's O&MBG.

In Georgia, two dozen employees who work at Milton city hall and in offices around metro Atlanta were among the more than 350 volunteers who cleaned five dumps, removed 1.5 linear miles of barbed wire fencing, cleaned nearly a mile of right-of-way, and cleared almost six acres of pasture in Milton's 202-acre undeveloped Birmingham Park.



Volunteers clean up portions of Willow Creek in Centennial, Colo., to celebrate Earth Day.



Volunteers show their support of the city and the Birmingham Park clean-up.

## Tasting success in Thunderbolt



Pictured in the front row, from left to right are Equipment Operator **Sandra Newman**, Thunderbolt Mayor **Anna Marie Thomas** and Assistant Project Manager **Gary Johnston**. Pictured in the back row from left to right are Equipment Operator **Joe Mell Williams** and Meter Reader **Tommy Ingram**.

Employees in Thunderbolt, Ga., participated in the town's first Taste of Thunderbolt Festival, held in May.

The community event raised funds to support the town's new recycling program and featured more than 40 vendors and food from local restaurants.

Echoing the town's positive environmental message, employees offered information on water conservation techniques, recycling and composting and passed out dye tablets to residents so they could check for leaky toilets in their homes.

Employees cooked and served a pot of shrimp gumbo to more than 125 attendees. They also entered a grilled, rum-soaked shrimp with mango-lime relish in the cooking contest, placing in the top three – a great feat considering some of the competition included crab pie, deviled crab cakes, seafood gumbo and Thunderboltonian salad with shrimp and crab meat.

"We had a blast," says Assistant Project Manager **Gary Johnston**.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## Fifth graders learn about clean water

Crestview, Fla., employees provided a tour of the wastewater facility to more than 100 fifth graders from Bob Sykes Elementary School in early May.

They set up four stations and divided the group of children into four groups. While three groups received a tour of the facility, the fourth group rotated in and out of the laboratory.

Our client, Public Services Director Wayne Steele, and DeFuniak Springs, Fla., Project Manager **Jayne Swift** helped plan and prepare for the event, while Crestview Project Manager **Paul Frigon** and his team served as tour guides.

“The students had a good time, and they definitely had some very interesting questions,” says Paul. “Our client was quite impressed with the tour outcome and emphasis on safety, and he is very encouraged to see things like this in the future. He likes the idea of involving students in what’s going on in the community.”

The tour ended with the children receiving goody bags and a newsletter about National Public Works Week.



The Crestview team welcomes more than 100 fifth graders to the wastewater facility.



Fifth graders explore the lab.

## Golfing for good in Johns Creek

With generous support from lead sponsor CH2M HILL OMI, the Johns Creek, Ga., police department raised more than \$35,000 for Special Olympics Georgia.

The department’s 3-month-long fundraising efforts culminated at the Special Olympics Golf Tournament held May 18.

Operations Director **Herb Washington** brought some of his friends – NBA basketball legend Julius “Dr. J.” Erving and former NBA player Joe Ward – to play on the golf team, adding a celebrity element to the fun day.

Area Manager **Greg Wilson**, Program Director **Buzz Boehm**, Administrative Services Director **Sheryl Boell**, Communications Director **Bill Doughty**, Communications Manager **Rosemary Taylor** and Executive Assistant **Syreeta Andrews-Whitfield** rounded out the company’s participants.

Special Olympics Georgia is a non-profit organization that provides athletic programming and services for 23,000 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.



Pictured, from left to right, are **Bill Doughty**, **Buzz Boehm**, JCPD Major **John Clifton**, 2009 JCPD Special Olympics Ambassador **Ashley Lebovitz**, JCPD Major **Curt Harrell**, JCPD Chief **Ed Densmore**, NBA Legend **Julius “Dr. J.” Erving**, **Herb Washington** and **Sheryl Boell**.

## Hoboken hops to it



More than 20 third-grade students from the Hoboken Charter School in New Jersey visited the North Hudson Sewerage Authority’s wastewater treatment plant on April 7. Project Manager **Mike Arnold** and Client Services Manager **Steve Hudock** provided a plant tour, and a surprise visitor, the Easter bunny (also known as Administrative Specialist **Alexis Benevides**), made the day a lot of fun for the kids.

## Gilroy goes green

Employees who operate the South County Regional Wastewater Authority facility, serving the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill, Calif., decorated one of the electric cars they use around the plant in patriotic colors and drove it in Gilroy’s Memorial Day parade, held on May 25. Signs on the e-car highlighted the fact that the facility, operated and maintained by CH2M HILL staff for more than 20 years, is an award winner. The facility earned the 2008 Plant of the Year Award from the California Water Environment Association’s Monterey Bay Section in February.



## Annual tournament benefits kids

Golfers enjoyed a beautiful, windy day in Colorado in May and helped raise \$4,000 for youth programs at the Fort Lupton Recreation Center.



Left to right: Regional Business Manager **Billy Ammons**, Regional Business Group Manager **Rob Kuta**, Fort Lupton Project Manager **Thom Vinson**, City Attorney **Bill Wallace** and City Administrator **Mike Konefal** enjoy a day on the course.

“The golf tournament was a great success for the golfers, and more importantly for the recreation center,” says Fort Lupton Operator **Sherryl Thode**. “These programs provide extracurricular activities for youth and help them to grow socially, physically and mentally in a community that supports them.”

The O&MBG sponsors the tournament each year, held at the city-owned Coyote Creek Golf Course, along with several other companies. After playing, the 60 golfers were treated to barbecue and prizes.

## Crestview coasts to first place in race

East Region employees took home the first-place trophy in Crestview, Fla.’s annual Old Spanish Trail Festivities canoe race in April.

Crestview councilperson **Linda Parker**, Regional Operations Manager **Lisa Drinkwater**, Crestview Project Manager **Paul Frigon**, Regional Business Manager **Brent Stauffer**, Operator **Bruce Amundsen**, Clerk Typist **Pamela Cox**, DeFuniak Springs Project Manager **Jayne Swift** and their families concluded the day’s victory with some hot wings and cool beverages.



Team CH2M HILL OMI proudly displays it’s first-place trophy at the annual Crestview Spanish Trail Festivities canoe race.

## Farmington kids learn conservation

The Farmington, N.M., team participated in the San Juan Water Fair May 18-19, which is held annually for all fifth graders in San Juan County public schools and teaches kids the importance of water conservation and protection.

This year, Farmington staff taught nine classes each day, with approximately 30 students per class, about salinity and how to help reduce it.



**Marsha Englehart** (left) and **Monica Peterson** show students how to use a conductivity meter to measure total dissolved solids.

Assistant Project Manager **Monica Peterson**, IPP Coordinator **Marsha Englehart**, Operations Supervisor **Rick Meyers** and Operations Manager **Dean Roquemore** took turns teaching students how to use a conductivity meter to measure total dissolved solids. At the end of each class, each student received a handout to take home with ideas on how to reduce the amount of salt they put back in the water system, including choosing liquid detergent instead of powder.

The O&MBG has operated the city of Farmington’s water and wastewater system since 2000.

AROUND THE ENTERPRISE

# All about ASL

By Regan McMorris, CH2M HILL ASL Senior Technologist

Important to every O&MBG Project Manager is controlling operational costs.

Some projects are required to collect and analyze samples on a routine basis. But sending the samples to a local laboratory may actually be more expensive than using the services of CH2M HILL's own internal laboratory, the Applied Sciences Laboratory, located in Corvallis, Ore.



From left to right: ASL staff, including **Scott Orsborn**, **Dayna Kaumanns** and **Kathy McKinley**, receive incoming samples.

"Local laboratory prices may not always be the cheapest," says ASL Client Services Manager **Kathy McKinley**. "We often find that ASL is able to bid analytical work cheaper than what projects have been paying in the past."

This point has been realized by more than one project. **Roseburg, Ore.**, Lead Operator **Randy Turner** and **Lebanon, Ore.**, Area Manager **Brian Helliwell** were both pleased to discover that using CH2M HILL's ASL would save them hundreds of dollars on each sample event.

But what if your project is on the opposite side of the country? **Kathy** points out that overnight delivery pretty much eliminates the need to be restricted to local laboratories only. "We have clients in places like **Kodiak Island, Alaska**, that routinely send us their samples. We ship them the sample containers at our cost, and even with their shipping costs back to us, they can end up saving quite a bit in comparison to local laboratories."

The CH2M HILL ASL offers soil, water and air testing services, as well as specialty services such as aquatic toxicology (bioassay) testing, a full treatability research and development laboratory, and technical experts that can provide on-site laboratory assistance, new method development, specialty testing or problem-solving services.

"We may not be the right fit for every project, but we would certainly like the opportunity to provide competitive pricing to O&MBG projects," **Kathy** adds. "Having this service available is one way that CH2M HILL brings added value to our clients."

Do you want to find out if your project can benefit by using ASL? Contact the team by phone at 541.768.3120 or via e-mail at [asl@ch2m.com](mailto:asl@ch2m.com). You also can find them on the Web at [www.ch2m.com/asl](http://www.ch2m.com/asl).

# In memory

## Ralph R. Peterson



**Ralph R. Peterson**  
Oct. 12, 1944 – Sept. 1, 2009

**Ralph Peterson** died in his home on Sept. 1 from a battle with cancer. He was 64 years old.

Ralph was best known as the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of CH2M HILL.

He joined the company as an intern and then as a surveyor in 1965 as the 148th employee hired and never worked anywhere else. He was well-known to have an exceptional grasp of science and technology and as an extraordinarily approachable leader with a personal connection to his fellow employees. His door was always open, and for years, Ralph and his dog, **Charlie**, welcomed the firm's staff to engage in conversations with him about the direction of the firm and broader issues facing the industry and society.

During his long tenure with the firm, CH2M HILL grew from a regional engineering firm to a global leader. As CEO, Ralph oversaw a dramatic growth in the company increasing from \$500 million in annual revenue to nearly \$7 billion at his retirement. Outside CH2M HILL's project success, one of his proudest accomplishments was an innovative ownership structure enabling its employees to buy and sell stock on an internal market that maintained its employee ownership and allowed a huge base of employees to participate in the firm's success.

Ralph is survived by his wife of 45 years, **Betty**; children **Jamie** and **Jeffery**; five grandchildren; three brothers; five sisters; and nieces and nephews.

## CONNECTING WITH OUR CLIENTS

# Temple marks 'special' day with client

Temple, Texas, employees received a unique invitation from Temple City Manager **David Blackburn** in March, and they graciously accepted it.

**David** decided to hold a special luncheon at the wastewater treatment plant for the temple team and his office staff, and he appropriately dubbed it "Urinal Day" so that everyone could enjoy the wastewater plant's special aroma. With dull and overcast weather on the horizon, the Temple team set up the luncheon under the return activated sludge screws in the event of rain.

The yellow-themed celebration included toilet brush and rubber glove streamers, **Baby Ruth** candy bars, and a urinal floral centerpiece equipped with plungers and toilet paper. Project Manager **Chris Parker** topped off the Urinal Day celebration by giving everyone a tour of the plant.



**David** and his office staff celebrate an odd or unusual holiday once per quarter through a lottery system. Each person chooses a strange holiday to celebrate and places the name in a hat. A drawing determines which holiday will be celebrated next, and Urinal Day happened to be **David's** selection.

The CH2M HILL O&MBG has operated Temple's wastewater facility for 15 years.

Visitors enjoy the Urinal Day celebration, complete with themed décor.

# Walla Walla flaunts new flags

Employees operating the wastewater facility in Walla Walla, Wash., welcomed two new flagpoles and flags earlier this year to commemorate the completion of the plant's 8-year, \$30 million upgrade.

The city installed the flagpoles, and employees decided on two poles in the anticipation of needing a second pole in case the site achieved Voluntary Protection Program accreditation. More information on that to come!

In addition, water is not the only thing being reused at the facility. In keeping with the sustainability theme, the decorative rocks placed around the flagpoles are reissued trickling filter media.

"The upgrade changed our operation from a wastewater treatment facility to a water reclamation facility in the summer and changed our operation to an advanced wastewater treatment facility in the winter," says Administrative Specialist **Cheryl Rickertsen**.

CH2M HILL O&MBG employees have operated Walla Walla's wastewater facility for nearly 10 years.



Two new flag poles stand tall at the Walla Walla facility entrance.

## IN OUR INDUSTRY

# Lehigh hosts industry seminar

For the second time this year, employees in Lehigh County, Pa., helped sponsor a water and wastewater training class.



Instructor **Marlene Moore** talks about data handling techniques.

In this 7-hour class, held in March, attendees learned techniques for data handling, review and evaluation. More than 40 participants from various treatment plants and the industry attended, and **Marlene Moore** from Advanced Systems, Inc. taught the class.

Employees not only attend these types of classes, but also host between 6 to 10 onsite water/wastewater training courses throughout the year. The first training session of the year was held in February and was about emergency preparedness at treatment plants.

"Lehigh's partnership with the community, as well as other industry professionals, helps us maintain an atmosphere for sharing ideas and experiences," says Assistant Project Manager **Tony Mazziotta**.

The O&MBG has operated Lehigh County's wastewater facility since 1995.

ALL ABOUT YOU

**Editor's note:** Because of the conversion of the Human Resources and Payroll information system to Oracle, we're having difficulty obtaining accurate lists of new hires, promotions, certifications and anniversaries. If you have a certification you would like to share, please send the information to Of Mutual Interest Editor **Carolyn Brinkers** (carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com), as we will publish it in a future issue of Of Mutual Interest.

New hires

Name	Position	Location
Sarah Baber	Clerk Typist	The Villages, Fla.
Thomas Black	Director of Public Works	Sandy Spring, Ga.
Mindy Callender	Assistant City Clerk	Central, La.
Nathanael Dominguez	Meter Reader	The Villages, Fla.
Diana Holder	Laboratory Analyst I	Lehigh County, Pa.
Jacob Kissinger	Sanitation Technician	Hinesville, Ga.
Robert Martini	Laboratory Analyst II	Moundsville, W.Va.
David Mixon	Mechanic	Albany, Ga.
Carter Reeb	Project Manager Intern	Ontario, Ore.
Mark Van Stone	Industrial Technician Supervisor	Detroit Diesel, Mich.
Matthew Zyjewski	Planner	Milton, Ga.

Certifications

Name	Position	Location
Jennifer Hagen	LEED Accredited Professional, New Construction LEED 2.2	Bonita Springs, Fla.

July Service awards

Name	Location	Years
Robert Bartlett	Oak Ridge, Tenn.	35
David Hester	Live Oak, Fla.	25
Christopher Keister	Traverse City, Mich.	20
Art Liming	Fort McMurray, Alberta	20
John Torre	New Haven, Conn.	20
Milan Jurkovic	Crestview, Fla.	15
Gary Miller	Denver, Colo.	15
John Hernandez	Gilroy/Morgan Hill, Calif.	10
Jeffery Houchin	Lebanon, Ore.	10
Edward Salazar	Grants, N.M.	10 (in June)
Judy Caldwell	Marietta, Ga.	5
Byron Coleman	Lowndes County, Ga.	5
Paul Juarez	Hoboken, N.J.	5

Want to give up smoking? Try these incentives

Giving up cigarettes is tough; about 70 percent of smokers in the U.S. claim they want to quit, but only about three percent manage to do so during any given year. So what really helps?

**Money. Lots of it.** A study conducted by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia tested the power of financial incentives by offering half of a group of 878 General Electric employees up to \$750 if they quit smoking for nine months. Almost 15 percent of the employees who received the cash bonus had quit smoking after 9 to 12 months, reports the New England Journal of Medicine, whereas only 5 percent of those who did not receive a cash reward were smoke-free.

**Pets. We love our pets.** Evidence on second-hand smoke suggests that it's as dangerous for dogs and cats as it is for smokers' human partners, according to research published in Tobacco Control. In an online survey of pet owners in southeast Michigan, 28.4 percent of smokers said they were more likely to give up smoking knowing that they were negatively affecting their pets' health. If you can't do it for yourself or your partner, then consider doing it for Fido or Fluffy.

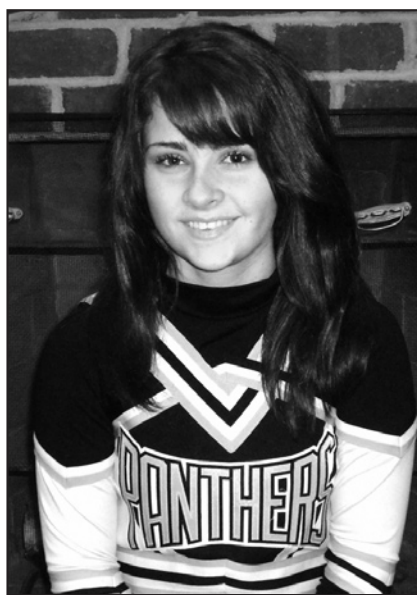
Our Employee Assistance Program, offered through Magellan Health Services, has some great resources too. For more information on how to quit smoking, log on to [www.MagellanHealth.com/member](http://www.MagellanHealth.com/member), or call 800.888.2273. Counselors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide confidential assistance at no cost to you.

Celebrating Carol Stream kids

Eleven years – that's how long Carol Stream Lab Analyst **Sue Ruta's** son, Brian, has taken tours of the wastewater treatment plant. Since he's visited the plant as a second grader all the way to a college freshman, Brian is well-known around the Carol Stream project. So well-known, in fact, that Senior Instrumentation and Controls Specialist **Bob Youmans** treated Brian to a round of golf after his visit to the site. Brian, a member of his college golf team, was thrilled to spend the day with Bob and help him with his game. They are both looking forward to another round soon!



Bob Youmans (left) and Brian Ruta



Congratulations to Jenna Jordan, daughter of Carol Stream Ill., Administrative Specialist **Cathy Jordan**, for participating in the Illinois State cheerleading competition. Jenna is a member of the Glenbard North High School cheerleading squad and was recently featured in American Cheerleader magazine's "Awesome Athlete" section.

Our employee wins city's employee of the year award

Richmond Hill, Ga., honored Assistant Project Manager **Rick Lauver** as one of its three Employees of the Year for his service to the city's Public Works department in May.

Rick has worked for CH2M HILL OMI since 1995 and has 15 years of experience in public works. He started as a crew member and worked his way up to a management position, giving him a unique knowledge of the city and its public works challenges.

Rick says helping residents every day and making the community a better place is what makes him enjoy his work the most. He credits his team for their hard work and dedication and says he couldn't do his job without them.

According to Project Manager **David Buchanan**, who nominated Rick for the award, Rick's strongest trait is his can-do attitude, "even in times of crisis when everything is going against you, which helps to keep employee morale strong and gives the city a sense of security."



Richmond Hill Assistant Project Manager **Rick Lauver** (far right) displays his award along with fellow city employees.

Good for you



Lebanon, Ore., Operator **Larry Patton** was recently nominated for a veteran award by a fellow citizen for his military service in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Larry was honored with the Veterans of Oregon Honorable Service Award Medal for serving our country from 1970 to 1972.

New arrivals Denver, Colo.



Jackson Orr

Regional Business Analyst **Robynn Orr** and her husband, Colin, welcomed their new son, Jackson, on May 1. Jackson weighed 5 lbs., 15 oz. and was 18.5 inches long. Jackson was welcomed home by big sister Addyson.

Human Resources Manager **April Welsh** and her husband, Senior Financial Analyst **Scott Welsh**, welcomed the newest addition to their family. Brooklyn Ava arrived on July 18. She weighed 7 lbs., 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. She joins twin sisters Izzy and Emma.



Brooklyn Ava Welsh

## City Web sites enter new era of 'e-Quality'

In this exciting and interactive age of the Internet and social media, managing the Web sites of our Municipal Services clients is playing an increasingly important communications role within the communities we serve.

Accommodating the explosive growth of the city sites – with some expanding from a few static kilobytes to more than a full gigabyte of video, documents and interactive content within a scant few weeks – has become a greater challenge as more sites go online.

More space, more flexibility and more efficiency are now a reality for the city sites maintained by the O&MBG, which are now in the process of migrating to a new server and a new hosting arrangement.

“Making the switch to the new server is a little daunting, as it entails revising the guts of some of the sites in order to convert them to a self-contained entity,” says Electronic Communications Coordinator **Matthew Anderson**, who serves as Webmaster for several municipal Web projects, “but doing so has opened the doors to many more exciting possibilities.”

At the top of the list of those possibilities are far greater economies of scale, a benefit that can be enjoyed by both the company and the individual cities by leveraging a blend of unified hosting and backend methodologies without sacrificing site personality in favor of a “cookie cutter” mentality.

The integration of a new content management system, Kentico, will help achieve that goal. “Kentico brings participating sites under a managed, unified technical umbrella, allowing the cities to take advantage of technical advances more effectively while maintaining a unique look, feel and approach to content and communications delivery,” says Municipal Services Webmaster **Ric Carrasquilla**.

The potential also is there to extend the framework further into the CH2M HILL enterprise. “With the help of Managed Services, we have been able to create a hardware and application platform that effectively provides Web hosting services to our municipal services clients,” says IT Services Manager **Jason Woolums**. “Because of the scalable nature of the hardware and content management system, we have the ability to host and maintain sites for clients throughout the enterprise, not just municipal services.”

Making sure the cities’ citizens have a unique, city-specific experience goes beyond the technical considerations, however. It’s a matter of working with various city departments and officials to make sure each site reflects the overarching message, qualities and interests of the city at-hand.

“As a result of the technical upgrades, we’re now better-positioned to focus more time on the increasing

demands and expectations being placed on the sites, and we’ll be able to dedicate more time to the citizen-facing aspects of the sites, including enhanced interactivity and more functionality,” says Matthew.

Now that the new systems are falling into place, another project on the horizon is the creation of procedures that will help expedite some site updates by providing on-location personnel with direct access to sections requiring frequent content additions.



A view of the Milton and Castle Pines North Web sites, which we maintain for our municipal services clients.

## Turning dirt in Spokane



Spokane County, the city of Spokane Valley and the city of Spokane government leaders perform the ceremonial groundbreaking for the county’s new Regional Water Reclamation Facility. CH2M HILL is designing and building the \$127M facility, and when it’s complete, the O&MBG will operate it for 20 years. When finished in 2012, the 8-mgd facility will improve the county’s wastewater treatment capabilities, serve anticipated population growth and meet septic tank elimination goals. It also will improve water quality and the environment by reducing phosphorus and other nutrient discharges to the Spokane River.

## Employees find low-cost hotline solution for client

O&MBG employees offered their experience and knowledge to solve a problem – with significant cost savings – to the Canadian First Nations Safe Water Operations Project, located in British Columbia.

The Canadian First Nations project contract includes a requirement to establish and maintain a 1-800 hotline, allowing our clients, located in 18 remote areas throughout British Columbia, to call our employees toll-free when they need assistance.

The local phone company wanted a substantial monthly fee to initiate this service, so Sales Director **Wally MacKinnon** decided to call our municipal services employees, who were able to create a toll-free hotline at a reasonable cost.

“The municipal services group understood the issue at-hand, and by drawing upon their experience with setting up communications services for all of our city operations projects, they were able to come up with a low-cost solution in less than a day and within a matter of minutes,” says Wally.

Since last November, the O&MBG has performed technical and management services for the Safe Water Operations Program through a subcontract to First Canadian Water and Infrastructure. The program provides First Nations (Native American) communities with resources necessary to have their water systems operated and maintained by certified operators. The program also allows several communities to share these operators, bringing quality service at a lower cost.

ofmutualinterest

### 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 the Operations & Maintenance Business Group.

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 employees of the O&MBG.

### Editor:

Carolyn Brinkers  
carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com

### Contributing editors:

Matt Anderson, Sara Edwards,  
Paula Gray, Kerry Hogan, Julie  
Kauffman, Lisa Maggart, Susan  
Mays and Catherine Wheeler

### Layout and design:

Moria Howsare

### CH2M HILL O&MBG

P.O. Box 6607  
Englewood, CO 80155  
Office: 303.740.0019  
Fax: 303.740.6997  
www.omi.ch2mhill.com

### O&MZone:

www.int.ch2m.com/omzone

### Recycle this!

Please recycle this newsletter  
when you’re done reading it.



## Don’t miss the next issue



Employees in Twin Falls, Idaho showed the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley how to perform water testing using the World Water Monitoring Day kit. Read this and more!