

of mutual interest

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

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Enriching the community in Richmond Hill, Ga.



Perspective:

Message from your GLT



Shelie Gustafson

One of football coach Vince Lombardi's famous sayings was, "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing."

My father was a high school teacher and coach, and he used Lombardi's quote quite often. Sure, my Dad liked his team to win football games and basketball games. But when you really got down to what he meant by winning, it was more than just the final score reflected on the scoreboard. Winning was a team that supported each other through successes and losses.

A winner was the player who reached out to the person having a bad game and giving him or her a gentle slap on the back to show support. Winning meant seeing the player with the handicap really get into the game and, with the help of his teammates, make a tackle or bring the ball into the end zone for a score. Winning also meant watching the shy water boy or girl turn into the team's biggest fan and high-five all of the players as they headed to the sideline during a timeout.

We have a winning team here at CH2M HILL OMI. We win in many ways – we beat our competitors for projects, and we achieve our financial results. We also win by having a supportive team that pulls together in challenging times. I am so impressed with the efforts of CH2M HILL OMI associates who work together to achieve an objective. For example, the Hoboken, N.J., project has put together a team to make recommendations that will improve the service they're providing to their client. And the Twin Oaks team in California has worked endless days and extreme hours so the new water plant can pass acceptance testing. (Read more about the new plant on this page.) These are only two examples of many where our associates come together to tackle a tough objective and put in their best efforts to win.

When I see another associate show a fellow co-worker how to complete a new task or an associate congratulate a colleague for an accomplishment, then I, too, know I am on a winning team!

Central crew steps up to clean city after storm rips through Louisiana

On May 13, our new associates who help manage the city of Central, La., met with police and fire officials to establish emergency planning procedures.

The meeting was held just in time.

A severe thunderstorm struck Central on May 14 – the very next day – causing widespread wind damage, hail and extensive flooding. The city received reports, though unconfirmed, of a tornado as well.

"It went from day to night in about 5 minutes," says Project Director **Tommy Higgs**, who has led Central's municipal services team since it the project kicked off March 1. "We had winds in excess of 90 mph and rainfall that exceeded the 100-year flood level for such a short period of time. The storm ripped up trees and buildings, and roads were blocked around the city because of downed trees and flooding."

Following the emergency planning processes, Tommy, Public Works Manager **Roy Hutchinson** and other team members rallied at the fire station with public officials. A safety moment was held, and then the crews began clearing debris from main roads, completing much of the job within hours.

"The team did all they could in the dark – they were magnificent, and I can't praise them enough," says Tommy. "It was a tremendous joint effort with the city and utility companies to do what's needed for citizens."

Even after working into the night, the team came in early the next day to see what else they could do to help. And Central Mayor Mac Watts made a personal visit to the project office to thank everyone for working so hard.

Tommy says he also is impressed with the immediate offers of assistance that came pouring in from across CH2M HILL OMI. "We had calls and e-mails from people everywhere," he says. "That was a really good feeling for all of us. When you're in a total mess with limited resources, it is great to know we could call in reinforcements. We ultimately didn't need to bring in more troops, but it was a real comfort to know you all were there."

The team also appreciated Vice President, Municipal Services **Rick Hirsekorn**, who fully supported Tommy's decision to call out the subcontractors beyond our scope and for staff to safely perform every duty possible to assist the community.



State officials declared a state of emergency across Louisiana, including East Baton Rouge Parish, following the storm, which produced thousands of tons of debris in Central alone.

Central is surrounded by rivers on every side, so many city streets were flooded.

Twin Oaks water plant open for business

Representatives from the Water Business Group and CH2M HILL OMI helped the San Diego County Water Authority dedicate the world's largest submerged-membrane water treatment plant in May.

The plant serves San Diego County's nearly 3 million residents.

SDCWA awarded the \$157 million design-build-operate contract to CH2M HILL in 2005, which includes \$6 million in annual O&M services.

The 100-mgd plant, located in the Twin Oaks Valley, is being operated and maintained by CH2M HILL OMI associates for the next 15 years. Associate **Brian McDonald** is the Project Manager and leads a team of associates to deliver this exciting, yet challenging project, including providing 24-hour onsite staffing, chemicals, capital maintenance repair and replacement, membrane maintenance and replacement, residual solids disposal, and guaranteed maximum energy usage.

Snakes on a plant



Well, it made for a good movie headline at least! Check out this rattler, captured on camera at the Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant. The facility is located in a beautiful and rural area. Snakes are safely caught and released outside of the facility's grounds for the protection of associates as well as the environment. Brian says that in addition to the snakes, they also watch out for bees, coyotes and roadrunners.



Water Business Group employees and CH2M HILL associates celebrate the plant opening with SDCWA representatives.

SAFETY BEGINS WITH ME

Aiming for a star in Washington

Associates in Walla Walla, Wash., are aiming for a STAR – the state’s Voluntary Protection Program STAR, that is.

Following on the heels of associates in Rio Rancho, N.M., who earned New Mexico’s “Zia Star” VPP status last summer, the Walla Walla team was introduced to its state’s VPP with a kick-off party, where associates learned about the many benefits of VPP, not only to the company but also to themselves.

Regional Health & Safety Manager **Ruben Aranda** joined the group to share his first-hand account of Rio Rancho’s VPP journey.

Associates enjoyed lunch and a star-shaped cake and received orange T-shirts with a Mission to Achieve VPP STAR slogan, which they wear every Wednesday to show their unity and commitment to achieving the VPP STAR designation. The team has submitted its application and is waiting to hear from Washington State’s Department of Health and Safety.



Walla Walla associates learn about their state’s Voluntary Protection Program.



Celebrating safety in West Virginia



Associates who work at the Honeywell site in Moundsville, W.Va., celebrated 5 years without a lost-time recordable or days away from work. They hit the 5-year mark on Feb. 1, and celebrated with a luncheon in May. From left to right are associate **Helen Potts**, Project Manager **Bob Martini**, associate **Homer Mickey**, Project Safety Team Leader **Terri Daniels**, and associates **Bob Greathouse**, **Elza O’Neil** and **Bill McConnell**.

Oregon associates support city safety fair

Associates in Sweet Home, Ore., participated in the city’s first safety fair, along with representatives from the city’s public works, police and fire departments. Other state organizations also participated.

Events included a bicycle rodeo, bicycle safety inspection, document shredding and more. And the city offered free bicycle helmets to children.

Associates served up 200 free hot dogs and several gallons of soft drinks to fair participants while talking about our company’s value of safety.



From left to right: Vocational rehabilitation students **Bill Stinett** and **Max Baker** are pictured with associates **Sherwin Johnson** and **Doug Atkinson**.

500 is the number in Milton, Johns Creek

Associates in both Johns Creek and Milton, Ga., have reached safety milestones – each team has worked 500 days with no lost-time accidents or reportable incidents.

Corporate Health & Safety Director **Mark Zachary** joined the Johns Creek team to congratulate them and help them celebrate their success. Everyone enjoyed a cake with a safety theme.

And in Milton, associates celebrated with Mayor Joe Lockwood and played safety trivia. And like Johns Creek, Milton associates also enjoyed a “safety cake.”



From left to right: Regional Health & Safety Manager **Ruben Burch** joins Johns Creek project safety team members **Corrine Lindo**, **Larry Hampton**, **Sam Durrance** and **Sam Bishop**, along with Corporate Health & Safety Director **Mark Zachary**, to congratulate the entire associate team on their efforts.



Milton’s safety team includes, from left to right, associates **Erika Sherman**, **Lisa Maggart**, **Roddy Motes** and **Matt Fallstrom**. Look for this picture and other safety images featured on the home page of O&MZone!

More applause for safety in the West and Central Region

Ten more projects from the West and Central Region have earned recognition from the National Safety Council.

Four projects – Grants, Rio Rancho, and Taos, N.M., along with Liberty, Mo. – received both the Perfect Record Award and the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award.

Five projects earned the Perfect Record Award: Dodge City, Kan.; Duncan, Okla.; Ft. Lupton, Colo.; Las Campanas, N.M.; and Webb City, Mo.

And Fayetteville, Ark., received the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award.

NSC’s Perfect Record Award recognizes facilities with at least 12 consecutive months without an occupational injury or illness that have resulted in days away from work. The Occupational Excellence Achievement Award recognizes facilities that have fewer reported injuries and illnesses than comparable businesses.

The 14 new awards join 15 other National Safety Council commendations recently earned by CH2M HILL OMI’s projects in Texas.

“Our people at these projects are so committed to safety,” says Regional Health & Safety Manager **Ruben Aranda**. “Their dedication is clearly demonstrated every day, and these NSC awards provide even more proof of their success.”

Hats off to safety in the Great White North



Project Manager **Terry Rands** and associates celebrated all of the safety successes at the Lambton County projects at a recent safety team meeting.

During the meeting, Project Safety Team Leader **Randy Clendenning** presented the safety awards that Terry received at PM Summit 2008, including awards for Plympton Wyoming, St. Clair Township, Petrolia and Oil Springs. Associates also enjoyed a steak barbecue.

“I’m proud of all the Lambton County associates for the extra time and effort that both they and the PSTLs put toward safety this year,” says Terry. “We have been accident-free since 1995 with no lost-time injuries.”

The group’s motto is “Everyone goes home.”

Operator in Training **Todd Hurlock** (left) is ecstatic to receive the Plympton Wyoming award from Randy.

HELPING OUR CLIENTS

San Marcos staff mark perfect compliance, earn client praise

San Marcos, Texas, associates celebrated a milestone in February, after the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality conducted a comprehensive compliance investigation on Feb. 12 and found no deficiencies or violations.

To celebrate, associates held a pot luck and recognized all team members for their contributions.

“Perfect compliance is a goal for all CH2M HILL OMI projects, and being recognized by regulators after they’ve seen the staff’s hard work firsthand is nice,” notes Project Director **Mike Beck**.

Major upgrades to combat odor issues were completed in 2006, and since then, associates have learned and fine-tuned O&M procedures for the new plant processes. Treated wastewater is discharged into a segment of the San Marcos River that is designated as a habitat for several endangered plant and animal species. This segment of the river also is characterized by the TCEQ as having high value for recreational purposes. Maintaining compliance and achieving the zero deficiencies and violations status is essential to protecting this important local habitat.

“Staff training is a key to maintaining compliance,” says Mike. “Each operator must be aware of process situations that can quickly lead to a deficiency or violation and be able to make corrections to avoid the problem. Everyone must work together to operate the facility in line with our set targets and goals.”

In a letter to CH2M HILL OMI President **Elisa M. Speranza**, Thomas Taggart, San Marcos’ Director of Water/Wastewater Utilities, had this to say:

*“We appreciate the commitment of Project Director **Mike Beck** and all the project staff in the care and efficient operation of the city’s facility. The city’s partnership with CH2M HILL OMI is a very important part of our continued success as a growing community.”*

Because the facility stays in compliance, the city can promote community expansion without the threat of tap moratoriums from regulatory agencies. With the facility currently at 50 percent of design capacity and maintaining consistent compliance, San Marcos can look toward a long period of community growth.

It’s sNOw problem for Oregon associates

Associates who work at the Sandy project in Boring, Ore., received praise from the Zig Zag, Ore., community for their quality service.

This past winter, there was so much snow that associates could not drive to the Zig Zag wastewater plant and pump station. But associates found a way, instead trekking daily to the Zig Zag plant and station, often hauling supplies on sleds.



The Zig Zag community graciously thanked all associates from the Sandy project for their dedication and commitment to the community despite the harsh winter conditions. Here’s what they said in a letter to Project Manager **Robert Watts**:

We are very grateful that your staff was able to creatively find ways to get through all the snow to check on our facilities. This saved us the expense of hiring a snow plow and gave us peace of mind knowing the systems were being maintained. We feel these activities were above and beyond the call of duty and so we THANK YOU very much.

An associate hauls chemicals by sled to the Zig Zag plant.

Company hosts Sandy Springs Design Review Board retreat

Community development associates joined six Sandy Springs Design Review Board members for a retreat on May 16 at CH2M HILL OMI’s area office in Sandy Springs, Ga.

The retreat gave attendees the opportunity to refine the Board’s vision and direction for community development staff. The group discussed community design issues, established guidelines and discussed potential revisions to the Sandy Springs Overlay District Ordinance. Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos also presented comments. This was the first retreat for the Board since its inception in January 2005.

Though Sandy Springs is a new city (incorporated in late 2005), its boundaries encompass areas where people have lived for more than 100 years. This presents interesting challenges for elected officials, the appointed Design Review Board and CH2M HILL OMI community development staff. The Board is tasked with preserving and enhancing quality of life for Sandy Springs’ residents while improving design standards in the city’s commercial corridor.



Sandy Springs Design Review Board member **Bernadine Richards** and CH2M HILL OMI Community Development Director **Nancy Leathers** chat at the May 16 retreat.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Associates across Georgia cash in on gold and platinum

Our associates’ tradition of operations and maintenance excellence has netted 19 awards from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, including 14 gold and platinum awards for being 100 percent compliant with permit requirements in 2007.

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 any permit violations for five years or more.

In addition, two operators, Americus’ **Richard Campbell** and Lowndes County’s **Dale Cook**, took individual honors, winning Operator of the Year Awards in their districts. Richard won in the District 4 water plant category, and Dale won in the District 7 wastewater plant category.

The awards were presented at GAWP’s spring conference in Columbus:

Americus – our partner since 1994

- Water: Plant of the Year Award, groundwater category, serving a population greater than 10,000.
- Water: Gold Award.
- Wastewater: Gold Award.

“This Americus team is awesome! They simply amaze me with their commitment to our quality programs and living the E³ mission,” says Project Manager **Rick Leisner**. “I congratulate and thank each and every team

member in Americus, and I would also like to congratulate **Richard Campbell** on his individual achievement. It’s my honor and pleasure to work with such a group of quality folks.”

Augusta – our partner since 1999

- Wastewater: Gold Award.

Barnesville – our partner since 1995

- Water: 2008 Drinking Water Taste Test Winner, District 4
- Water: Gold Award.

Fulton County – our partner since 2000

- Wastewater – Little River: Platinum Award.
- Wastewater – Big Creek: Platinum Award.
- Wastewater – Johns Creek: Platinum Award.
- Wastewater – Little River Land Application System: Gold Award.

Lowndes County – our partner since 2001

- Water – Kinderlou Forest: Plant of the Year Award, groundwater category, serving a population of less than 1,000.
- Water – Kinderlou Forest: Gold Award.
- Water – South Lowndes County: Gold Award.
- Wastewater – Lowndes County Land Application System: Gold Award.

“These awards bear witness to the continued support and dedication of the Lowndes County staff,” says Project Manager **Bill Brandon**.

Swainsboro – our partner since 1992

- Water: Platinum Award.
- Wastewater: Platinum Award.

Washington – our partner since 1993

Water: Gold Award.

“This long list of awards reflects the commitment and dedication of our people at all levels,” says Regional Vice President, Project Delivery **Herb Washington**. “Their ability to focus on teamwork that delivers outstanding work to our clients is incredible, and I am so proud to be a part of this team.”

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. Its spring conference recognizes the best facilities and plant operators in the state each year, and offers technical and educational sessions on water and wastewater operations.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Tips for outstanding plant tours

For the public, what happens to wastewater after they flush the toilet or how clean water gets delivered to their tap is a mystery and rarely piques curiosity.

People typically pay no attention to the intricate system at work under their streets or to the important processes taking place at the community plant.

But inviting the public and schoolchildren to tour your plant is a great way to bridge that gap in knowledge, spark some curiosity and conduct important public relations at the same time.

Our associates have collectively hosted hundreds of tours for school groups, scout troops and the general public. For those of you beginning to offer tours, some simple pre-event planning can make the visit entertaining, exciting and educational.

Putting together a great tour

If you don't already have a tour program in place, it's easy to start one. First, do a little brainstorming:

- What are the days and hours you're available for tours?
- What ages do you want to target? Suggested ages are students in grades 6 to 12 and college students.
- Plan the tour in advance, and develop the path the tour will take.
- Work with your staff to understand who is interested in conducting tours.
- Determine if you will need safety and/or photo releases from tour participants.
- Obtain permission from the client if necessary. At minimum, notify them of your plans.

Once you have these ideas in place, let your community know that your facility is available for tours. Develop a flier with basic information about your locations, hours, what you do and more. Contact local schools – the science club sponsor or career counselor is a great place to start. You also can post tour information on the city's Web site.

When a teacher contacts you, explain what to expect on a tour and what's needed, such as sturdy shoes and

weather-appropriate clothing. Also, determine how many students and chaperones will attend. Tours work best with no more than 15-20 people per group. If an entire class or grade is coming, make sure you have enough staff to split them into smaller groups so each person can hear and see what you're explaining.

Before the tour group arrives, be sure your facility is clean and prepared. Have enough safety materials – such as goggles, gloves and hats – available to distribute, and remove obvious hazards or mark them if they are not removable. When the group arrives, start by outlining the safety rules and explain how to use the safety materials. Then you're ready to begin the tour.

What to say along the way

As you tour the facility, explain the importance of water conservation, the role your facility plays and the status of the infrastructure in your area. Obviously, you don't want to be heavy-handed in your approach, but relevant topics can be mentioned at different parts of the tour. Test the group's knowledge of basic terms prior to starting so you can adjust and define your terminology as needed.

And for wastewater plants, the "yuck factor" is both a draw and deterrent for visitors. For that reason, it is best to be upfront and deal with it directly. A lively question-and-answer session before arriving at the bar screen, or once there, can entertain the students while educating them. Ask them what items they

think are found in wastewater. Wrap up the session with a reminder that toilets, drains and storm sewers are not trash cans.

At the end of the tour, don't forget to thank everyone for coming. If possible, have a staff member or teacher take pictures of the group. You may want to consider starting a "Wall of Fame" that includes a photo from each of your tours with the date, school and names of employees who conducted and helped on the tour.

If possible, have materials available that visitors can take home that reinforce the message of the work you do. List contact information for the public works department and your facility in particular.

Overall, conducting tours provides a great community relations opportunity. It sheds light on an often misunderstood process that happens without any fanfare, and helps bring more awareness and knowledge to citizens. People can see very visibly and undeniably the importance of their community's water and wastewater plants and how they protect the watershed, the environment and public health.

Our thanks to Carol Stream, Ill., Project Manager Mike Burnett and Gilroy, Calif., Project Manager Brenda Miles, who wrote this article. A longer version is scheduled to appear in the August issue of Water Environment and Technology published by Water Environment Federation. The article will be featured in the Operations Forum section.

Simple tips for successful visits

- Inform visitors prior to the tour to wear proper shoes and weather-appropriate clothing.
- Explain safety rules at the beginning of the visit and reinforce them throughout.
- Have plenty of safety equipment for visitors, such as hats, gloves and goggles.
- Be aware of "lingo" usage; explain industry terms clearly and simply.
- Use comparisons to common activities to help people understand how a process works.
- Practice by walking the tour personally before conducting one.
- Keep a cheat sheet with you about items such as tank sizes and depth.
- Thank everyone for coming!

Central cooks for kids

The new CH2M HILL OMI team supporting the city of Central, La., started providing complete municipal services to the city on March 1 – and then stepped right up to volunteer for the community too.

Associates joined the city's second annual "Cookin' for Our Kids" event, held in early April, which raises funds for technology and educational improvements for city schools. Volunteers donate and cook all drinks and food, including barbecue, jambalaya, ham, fried turkey and crawfish.

CH2M HILL OMI was a gold-level sponsor for the event. Associates also sponsored a cooking team called Central Krewe. The team took home first place in the "couchon-de-lait" (a Cajun pig roast) category, and third place in the brisket category.

Overall about 130 cooking teams participated in four cooking categories, and the event exceeded its goal and raised more than \$250,000 for the schools.

"People came out in massive numbers to support their kids and also to enjoy some good food and live entertainment," says Project Manager Tommy Higgs. "Our associates did a great job supporting this important community activity."



Central Project Manager Tommy Higgs helps hang the company sign at the Central Krewe booth.



Central associate Lynn Oliver takes a break to enjoy the delicious food she had been helping serve to Central citizens.

Scout troop gets the scoop in Pennsylvania

Helping educate kids about the importance of water and environmental issues is important to our company – as demonstrated once again recently at the industrial pretreatment facility we operate for Lehigh County, Pa.

A troop of Cub Scouts visited the plant to learn how wastewater is processed and cleaned. The troop watched an educational video, asked lots of questions, and received an extensive tour.



The boys get ready for the tour.

According to the den leader, "I really think this field trip is one of the highlights of the year ... The boys enjoyed it and learned a lot about water and what it takes to keep it clean."

Since 1995, our associates have operated the 5.75-mgd facility, while also supporting a program to accept and treat concentrated wastes from various local industries.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Learning about wastewater in Florida

Fifth grade students from Bob Sikes Elementary School in Crestview, Fla., got up close and personal with the wastewater treatment process during a visit to the DeFuniak Springs, Fla., plant.

Guided by Project Manager **Jayne Swift** and DeFuniak Springs associates **Nick Ramos**, **Mike Bowling**, **Harold McCorkle** and **Larry Warren**, more than 100 students and teachers participated in a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, the spray field and the water wells. The visitors also used microscopes to view organisms and watched a video about scuba diving the Floridan Aquifer.

The experience spiked the career interests of several visiting students. "I did get one kid who wants to come and work at the plant," says Jayne. "I told him to see me after high school!"



Students use microscopes to view organisms during a tour of the DeFuniak Springs, Fla., wastewater plant.

Wetlands tour helps educate Richmond Hill students

Last year, a Richmond Hill, Ga., high-school teacher brought her class to visit the city's wastewater treatment facility and wetlands system.

She enjoyed the tour so much that she brought this year's class to the plant again.

In April, about 40 11th-graders from two biology classes came to the Richmond Hill project to learn how unique and green the wastewater treatment plant is compared to conventional facilities.

"Our facility is an overland flow system followed by constructed wetlands that flows into a swamp," says Project Manager **David Buchanan**. "There is so much wildlife to observe, and we saw plenty that day." In fact, an osprey dove into the water, snatched up a fish, and took off – right in front of the students. "The kids were pretty impressed."

Students took a hayride through the plant and learned about the water cycle, wildlife and water treatment along the way. Then they visited the laboratory and talked with lab analysts to learn more about the importance of their work.

"The day gives us a chance to talk to students about the different types of jobs available in the water and environment field. Engineer, operator, health and safety, lab – everyone is welcome," David says. "The team here did a great job educating the students about the opportunities they could pursue."



Project Manager **David Buchanan** (center of photo) leads the tour through the wetlands, explaining how the wetlands system works and encouraging students to consider environmental careers.



Laboratory Analyst **Melode Conner** explains how she tests samples for ammonia concentration and why it is important to be able to demonstrate compliance with laboratory analyses.

Milton celebrates new K9 police puppy

Associates in Milton, Ga., got to help welcome a new K9 officer to the police force.

The energetic and scrappy German Shepherd puppy was purchased and donated by local veterinarian and Milton resident Dr. JoAnne Roesner, who will provide veterinary care for the dog throughout its working life free of charge.

The pup comes from a championship bloodline of Vom Schmidtzerheim German Shepherds. During the next year, the puppy will be trained in obedience, narcotics detection, and search and rescue.

Serving as a city ambassador, the pup will play an integral role in outreach programs throughout Milton schools and the community, providing positive interaction with students and helping them learn about the value of our police force and the importance of drug prevention.



Overall, the pup-related donations, including veterinarian care and training, will provide the city with a valuable asset to the force – without the typical cost of roughly \$20,000.

The first phase in the school outreach program has already taken place, as students at area schools were invited to submit potential names for the city's new pet detective. Students were encouraged to do their research, learn more about dogs that have played an important role in history, and also look at past leaders, heroes and more, as they put on their thinking caps to come up with appropriate names. The naming selection process is still underway.

Milton's newest K9 officer starts his life on the Milton force with a ready-made brother, DaSilva, who was donated in November by Design Review Board member Eddie Moore.

Dr. Roesner with the puppy.

It's easy being green in Walla Walla

Associates in Walla Walla, Wash., participated in the city's farmer's market season opening, complete with a Green Day celebration.

Participants were asked to share ways their company supports sustainability.

Project Manager **Willy Breshears** and Laboratory Analyst **Nela Rice** hosted a table that demonstrated how CH2M HILL OMI cleans the city's wastewater influent and the beneficial reuse of biosolids. The display included sample jars of influent, effluent and biosolids as well as information pamphlets. Willy and Nela handed out CH2M HILL OMI notepads and pencils made from recycled materials. (Look for more pencils and other inexpensive give aways at The Merchandise Mart.)

"This was a great day to make positive connections with the community and council members," says Willy.



Nela rests between visitors to the CH2M HILL OMI display.

Wake up and smell the onions

Associates in Weslaco, Texas, assisted the City's Chamber of Commerce during the annual Onion Festival celebration, which is held every year in April.

The Onion Festival honors the discovery of the world-famous 1015 SuperSweet Onion developed at the Texas A&M University Extension Service in Weslaco. The onion is named after its recommended planting date of Oct. 15 and is the sweetest, mildest onion anywhere in the world. Texas 1015 SuperSweets are available from mid-April through May and are ideal for onion rings. They also grow to softball-size proportions, often weighing in at one pound or more.

Weslaco associates have participated in the festival for the past 7 years. This year they managed the booth for children's rides, securing \$8,000 for the chamber. Associates and family members also assisted with a barbecue tailgate party for police and emergency personnel at the Onion Festival emergency command post.



From right to left: Project Manager **Filemon Olvera**, Operator-in-Training **Cesar Belmares**, Operator-in-Training **Martin Martinez**, Water Treatment Plant Lead Operator **Candido Barco** and family members, along with Administrative Specialist **Velma Muniz** second from right.

PROUD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Celebrating public works across the country

Delivering public works has been part of our business since 1992, when we started our first public works project in Hinesville, Ga. Now we deliver public works in 17 cities across six states. Several projects commemorated National Public Works Week last month, observed annually during the third full week in May. Here's a quick roundup of how they celebrated.

Milton

Associates in Milton, Ga., worked with their partners to commemorate the event. The public works team gathered with the subcontractors that work as part of the city's public works function, and the team enjoyed a fiesta lunch. The team also had T-shirts created that spotlighted the National Public Works Week logo. In addition, Mayor Joe Lockwood and Milton's City Council issued a proclamation on May 19, recognizing Public Works Week. It said in part:

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mayor and the Council of the City of Milton, do hereby proclaim the week of May 18 – 24, 2008, as "National Public Works Week" in the City of Milton, and we call upon all citizens and civic organizations to acquaint themselves with the issues involved in providing our public works and to recognize the contributions which public works officials make every day to our health, safety, comfort, and quality of life.



Public Works Customer Service Representative **Angie Arnold**, Public Works Director **Dan Drake** and Public Works Intern **Raven Collins** show off their Public Works Week T-shirts.



Celebrating National Public Works week as a dedicated public works team.

Johns Creek

Associates in Johns Creek, Ga., set up displays and hosted informational sessions about various aspects of the Johns Creek Public Works department, called Transportation, Field Services, Traffic Services, and Recreation and Parks. The sessions were designed to let co-workers learn more about the department.



Traffic Services Manager **Tom Udell** shows off an "antique" pedestrian signal while Transportation Engineer **Cindy Jenkins** checks out a traffic signal control cabinet on display at Johns Creek City Hall.



Recreation and Parks Manager **Kirk Franz** points out features of the city's Newtown Park to fellow associates including Executive Assistant **Elizabeth Warren**.

Walla Walla

Associates in Walla Walla, Wash., partnered with their client, the city of Walla Walla, to recognize and celebrate National Public Works Week. This year's events included the annual Public Works show-and-tell day, where the city invites several third grade classes to parade through different public works stations while explaining what each different group does.

Laboratory Analyst **Rob Muskthel** was on-hand at the wastewater treatment plan station, where he displayed a colorful poster that illustrated bugs being eaten by chlorine while demonstrating the colorimeter process. And Administrative Specialist **Cheryl Rickertsen** acted as tour guide for the students, leading them from station to station. This is the sixth year that Walla Walla associates have participated in the city-sponsored event.

And the education didn't stop there. Rob was asked to present his poster and demonstration to a third-grade class to supplement the community unit they had been learning about in school.



Rob visited the kids in the classroom wearing his lab analyst uniform and explained what his work day is like and how important it is to get a good education.

Associate **Rob Muskthel**, who works at the wastewater treatment facility in Walla Walla, Wash., was invited to visit third-graders in their classroom after the public works show-and-tell day piqued their interest.

ALL ABOUT YOU

Big losers become winners in Johns Creek

Several folks in Johns Creek, Ga., are looking much thinner and healthier these days after participating in an eight-week fitness challenge.

Teaming up with Emory-Johns Creek Hospital under the guidance of bariatric nurse Rita Shingleton, associates weighed in weekly at the hospital then attended 30-minute classes on nutrition, exercise and other related subjects. In true partnership spirit, a few city employees joined the challenge as well.

Participants in "The Weight is Over" shared recipes, teamed up for walks at lunch, took part in group exercise and even got a deal on athletic shoes from a local store. CH2M HILL OMI donated a \$25 gift card to the weekly "biggest loser" and provided a celebratory – and healthy – lunch as the associates marked a collective weight loss of just over 112 pounds!



From left to right: city employee **Joanie Jones**, **Sheryl Boell**, **Agnes Beltran**, **Marshelle Taylor**, **Corrine Lindo**, city employee **Patty Hansen**, **Lamar Adams**, bariatric nurse **Rita Shingleton**, **Cheryl Lee**, **Elizabeth Warren**, **Marie Janvier**, **Maryanne Koutelakos**, **Sam Durrance**, **Shiwanda Dean** and **Lenard Scoggins**.

3 associates win new leadership award

Fifty professionals have received CH2M HILL's first Frontline Leadership Excellence Award, including three associates from CH2M HILL OMI:

- Hoboken, N.J., Project Manager **Doris Alejandro**
- Sandy Springs, Ga., Traffic Services Manager **Jeff Messer**
- Director of Consulting Services **Joe Simbolick**

Across the enterprise, more than 180 employees nominated their supervisors for the award. Candidates for the award could only be nominated by employees who worked for them. Award recipients were judged on the basis of exhibiting best practices in items such as communication and leadership.

"Frontline leaders are important to the organization's success; they are the people who work with our associates every day to accomplish our objectives and exceed our clients' expectations. These three are commended for their everyday efforts to bring out the best in others," says Human Resources Vice President **Shelie Gustafson**.

The group of award winners represents a cross-section of frontline leaders from every business group and 18 regions/theaters. Winners will be recognized by the firm later this summer.

ALL ABOUT YOU

New hires

Each month, we're awarding a \$25 gift certificate to a new associate. Congratulations to Milwaukee, Wis., Strategic Project Development Manager **Terry Larson**, who won May's drawing. Terry was chosen in a random drawing by Denver, Co., Communications Intern **Dan Sutter**.

Name	Position	Location
Jessica Abrera	Intern	Hoboken, N.J.
Matthew Anderson	Mechanic	Hinesville, Ga.
Roberto Arroyo	Lead Mechanic	West Chicago, Ill.
Brent Baugher	Intern	Johns Creek, Ga.
John Cavazos	Operator-In-Training	Weslaco, Texas
Barry Cohen	Operator II	The Villages, Fla.
Jeffrey Comer	Industrial Technician	DuPont - Belle, W.Va.
Brandon Curry	Intern	Sandy Springs, Ga.
Michael Dile	Technician - Parks & Grounds	Grants, N.M.
John Dulmer	Planning & Zoning Manager	Milton, Ga.
James Gentry	Traffic Superintendent	Johns Creek, Ga.
Jeremy Hickox	Utility Worker	Laramie, Wyo.
Cornelius Harris	Utility Worker	Richmond Hill, Ga.
Richard Harrison	Operator II	Lampasas, Texas
David Kotecki	Director of Public Works	Centennial, Colo.
Richard Lang	Maintenance Supervisor	West Chicago, Ill.
Edward Lopez	Mechanic	Gilroy, Calif.
Jason McConaha	Utility Worker	Richmond Hill, Ga.
Mohammed Mohammed	Operations Supervisor	Syracuse, N.Y.
Edmund Owens	Payroll Specialist II	Atlanta, Ga.
David Powell	Utility Worker	Albany, Ga.
Dainton Rahn	Field Services Manager	Centennial, Colo.
Lorena Salinas	Financial & System Analyst	Sandy Springs, Ga.
Curtis Seibel	Meter Reader	The Villages, Fla.
Alexandra Taylor	Intern	Milton, Ga.
Greg Venette	Operator I	Fort Lupton, Colo.
Clint Wade	Industrial Technician-In-Training	DuPont Spruance - Richmond, Va.
Alice Wakefield	Deputy Director of Community Development	Milton, Ga.
Ronald Westcott	Meter Reader	Prescott Valley, Ariz.
Keith Woodward	Regional Business Analyst	Denver, Colo.

Promotions

Name	Position	Location
Avalyn Campbell	Executive Assistant	Sandy Springs, Ga.
Kenneth Craig	Project Manager I	Fort Mojave, Ariz.
Lawrence Keith	Project Manager II	Effingham County, Ga.
Nicholas King	Laboratory Analyst II	Fayetteville, Ark.
Adam McClymont	Lead Operator	Fayetteville, Ark.
Antionette McMillan	Permit Technician I	Sandy Springs, Ga.
Jerry Pitts	Assistant Project Manager	Effingham County, Ga.
Angel Rios	Collections Operator	Hoboken, N.J.
Ramon Rivera	Collections Operator I	Hoboken, N.J.
Boris Rusanov	Collections Operator I	Hoboken, N.J.
Ketki Sheth	Laboratory Analyst II	Hinesville, Ga.

Certifications

Name	Position	Location
Robin Blackman	Water Sample Technician Level 2	Farmington, N.M.
Alfred Lujan	Wastewater Treatment Operator-In-Training Grade I	Gilroy, Calif.
Brenda Miles	Wastewater Treatment Operator Grade V	Gilroy, Calif.
David Roybal	Distribution Systems Level 1	Farmington, N.M.
Cindy Wampner	Wastewater Systems Level 2	Farmington, N.M.

June service awards

Name	Location	Years of service
Willy Breshears	Walla Walla, Wash.	20 (in April)
Kim Kilpatrick	Ave Maria, Fla.	20
Larry Dietrich	The Dalles, Ore.	15
Cliff Leeper	Rio Rancho, N.M.	15
Kevin Mullin	Heinz - Ontario, Ore.	15
Kevin Ash	Liberty, Mo.	10
Darius Jenkins	Washington, Ga.	10
Kathryn Purvis	Swainsboro, Ga.	10
Cleita Fincher	DuPont Spruance - Richmond, Va.	5
Luis Morales	Hoboken, N.J.	5

Grants team honors fellow associate



Associates in Grants, N.M., have chosen Parks and Grounds Supervisor **Wayne Duran** as their employee of the year.

Wayne has been with the project for almost three years. He supervises a team of five, helping them taking care of the city's parks. In his short tenure with the company, Wayne has achieved a Water I certification and a Distribution I certification. The Grants team is proud of Wayne and is inspired by his achievements.

Grants Project Manager **Anthony Martinez** (left) presents Wayne with the Employee of the Year Award.

New arrivals

Denver, Colo.

Regional Business Analyst **Scott Welsh** and Human Resources Director **April Welsh** welcomed their daughters, Isabelle Sienna and Emma Serene on April 26. Isabelle weighed 4 lbs., 14 oz., and Emma weighed 3 lbs., 5 oz.



Scott is holding Emma, and April is holding Isabelle.

Regional Business Analyst **TJ Riggle** and his wife, Kelly, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Taylor Jane, on April 30. Taylor is TJ and Kelly's first child. Taylor weighed 6 lbs., 12oz., and was 19.5 inches long.



Taylor Jane Riggle

Seeing lightning in Sandy Springs



Sandy Springs, Ga., Project Manager **AI Crace** presents Communications Manager **Tisa Moore** with Lightning Bolt awards for winning four awards: An International Association of Business Communicators Bronze Flame Award for the Fiscal Year 2006 City of Sandy Springs Annual Report; two Gold MarCom Awards for the City of Sandy Springs Commemorative Pin Collection and the FY 2006 Annual Report; and the Crown Communities 2007 Award for the Sandy Springs Fire Department Start Up.



The Power of You

Refer candidates through new Power of You program

Know of a qualified candidate who wants to join CH2M HILL OMI? Refer them through our new employee referral program, The Power of You, which has replaced the Add a Star referral program. The program has some great features, including being able to submit candidates online and tracking the progress of your referrals through their interview process using the Power of You Web site on the Virtual Office at www.int.ch2m.com/employee referrals.

Visit the PM Summit 2008 Web site

Want to find out about the happenings at this year's PM Summit?

Then explore the Web site that includes all of the meeting highlights, from start to finish. Review daily activities, browse through photo galleries, or download presentation materials. Visit the Summit site directly at www.int.ch2m.com/omzone/PMSummit/2008/index.html, or go to O&MZone and select "PM Summit 2008" from the About Us menu.

If you have any questions or have feedback about the site, please contact Marketing & Communications Director **Susan Mays** at 720.286.4280.



The PM Summit Web site includes pictures, presentations and more.

Sharing communications survey results Survey says...

The Corporate Communications department conducted a survey in March to gather your thoughts on the effectiveness of the company's communications tools.

Somersworth, N.H., Laboratory Analyst **Stephanie Rochefort** won the survey drawing. Stephanie's name was chosen in a random drawing, winning a \$50 Visa gift card. Our thanks to the more than 160 of you who participated – that's 10 percent of our total associate population that gave us valuable feedback. We'd like to share some of the results.

Survey participants rated CH2M HILL OMI's five primary communications vehicles as either *effective* or *very effective*:

- Denver Connection – 85.1 percent
- Of Mutual Interest – 83.3 percent
- Health & Safety Alert – 87.6 percent
- O&MZone – 85 percent
- Newsflash – 87.4 percent

More than 95 percent of the respondents (155 people) stated the communications tools help keep them up-to-date with what's going on around the company. A few (less than 4 percent) stated they felt the tools aren't effective. One participant cited the communications e-mails "getting lost in the shuffle" as one of the reasons. Others said that *Of Mutual Interest* isn't distributed at their project, that they have trouble accessing O&MZone, and that we should expand the topics covered.

When asked what their preferred method (electronically, face-to-face, or printed format) of receiving information is, the first choice was printed format, then face-to-face, followed by electronic communications.

Topics associates enjoy hearing about include new projects, what's happening around the enterprise,

accomplishments, sustainability, safety, policy changes, what's going on at other projects and community involvement. Associates would like to know more about the future of the company, sharing professional knowledge, safety progress, compliance pitfalls, CH2M HILL projects, what smaller projects are doing, training, business development, our competitors and career advancement.

We also asked what associates are talking about at their projects. Survey respondents said they are discussing how they can make a difference, shared services, the difference between CH2M HILL and CH2M HILL OMI, career opportunities, new projects, health and safety, benefits, the Olympics, Panama Canal, and bonuses.

Additional feedback and suggestions provided by associates: include more photos with electronic communications, technology issues (easier access to e-mail for field folks; kiosks aren't effective), more effective Health & Safety e-mails, live video conferences with senior leaders, simplification of company policies and opportunities for more networking at a regional level.

Based on your feedback, here's what we've done so far:

- Given Human Resources the feedback that impacts their communications.
- Given the Health & Safety team the feedback that impacts their communications.
- Eliminated the holiday *Health & Safety Alerts* – at least for 2008.
- Started to explore new social media options for some communications.

The Corporate Communications department thanks you for your support and ideas – it allows us to make improvements to meet your needs.

Roll out some summer fun

Do you have some summer picnics planned?

Then this CH2M HILL OMI fleece and nylon travel blanket is just what you need! With water-repellent red nylon on one side to keep you dry and black fleece on the other to keep you warm, it's just right for the outdoors any time of year.

Whether your summer plans include picnics, concerts, sporting events or road trips, make sure you're in CH2M HILL OMI style. Pick up a travel blanket for just \$24.50 at The Merchandise Mart today at www.costore.com/omi.

Our thanks to Johns Creek, Ga., Community Development Deputy Director **Susan Canon**, who received one of the blankets for her suggestion.

Whether you're looking for hats and shirts for work or a name-brand golf shirt and light jacket for the weekend, this is the place for all your CH2M HILL OMI apparel. You'll always find something new in store at The Merchandise Mart.

Please note that The Merchandise Mart is only accepting credit cards as payment for items; project numbers can't be accepted. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Want to see your project and people featured in a future promotion? Send **Moria Howsare** (moria.howsare@ch2m.com) a picture of your team wearing apparel from or using products from The Merchandise Mart.



This new fleece and nylon travel blanket, now available in The Merchandise Mart, is just what you need for your summer plans.

ofmutualinterest
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL 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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Recycle this!

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



Don't miss July's issue



Associates in Coos Bay, Ore., replaced a tree at city hall. Read this and more in the July issue of *Of Mutual Interest*.