

# THE PIPELINE

JCW

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER



Volume 6, Issue 3

March 2011

## KC is socially slow

You can tweet about this, but Kansas City might be slow to get the message.

The metro area ranks 52nd on *Men's Health* magazine's list of the nation's most socially networked cities, one of nine cities to get a C grade.

- Washington ranked No. 1, followed by Atlanta and Denver.
- The worst? El Paso, TX, which received an F.
- St. Louis, a B, was No. 24; Wichita received a C- and a No. 66 ranking.

Men's Health said it developed its list by measuring the number of Facebook and LinkedIn users per capita, overall Twitter use, and traffic generated by the big social networks. It also based the list on the percentage of households that use chat rooms and blogs.

*Source: Monday, March 14, 2011, issue of the Kansas City Business Journal*

## Save the date!

May 25 is the 3rd Annual Johnson County Go Green Event in the county courtyard in downtown Olathe from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. More information will be sent later.



## JCW has the right stuff

In terms of permit compliance, 2010 was perhaps the BEST year that JCW has ever experienced ... at least that's how those who have been with the department for many years are remembering it.

The department had only three permit violations out of a possible 2,273 permit violations. The stellar record is continuing in 2011 as JCW has recorded zero permit violations during the first two months.

To have reached this outstanding level of service is no small feat.

"Many people have had a hand in reaching this milestone," said **Kurt Winters**, director of Operations and Maintenance. "It begins with all of the plant expansions and upgrades in recent years by our Engineering and Infrastructure group with assistance from our Operations Engineer.

"But these plants don't operate themselves, and these upgrades make plant operations more complicated. So, it's clear the O&M staff, along with assistance from our Operations Engineer, has done a great job of operating the plants, particularly since we are operating at less than full staffing. And the efforts of the county's Environmental Department and JCW support staff also made this possible. Congratulations to all involved. It is quite an accomplishment!"

General Manager **John O'Neil** agrees that this compliance rate is significant, stating, "I believe this on-going improvement in permit compliance is evidence of the positive effect of organizational changes and improved teamwork prompted by the Strategic Business Plan completed in 2007. All parts of our organization are working more collaboratively now than they have in the past. I truly appreciate the positive attitudes and efforts of all employees, especially the front line workers who give their all."

Next goal, 100 percent compliance in 2011!



## Partnership to result in savings for all involved

What began as a simple meeting to discuss the installation of software on a server ended up being a collaboration between JCW, Johnson County ITS, and TFM to go county-wide with the Enterprise Edition of the Wasp software, an inventory control software package.

JCW has used Wasp to inventory IT equipment and the hand-held radios for approximately the last two years. Wasp streamlines the year-end inventory process.

"It takes much less time to 'point and shoot' a scanner at a barcode, than it does to wage war with armies of dust bunnies while trying to read serial numbers on the backs of computers," said **Tony Hall**, JCW's IT analyst. "In addition, the ability to look up equipment and run custom reports within minutes is alone worth the money." Current list price of the software package is \$1,495.

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Levels of Service —

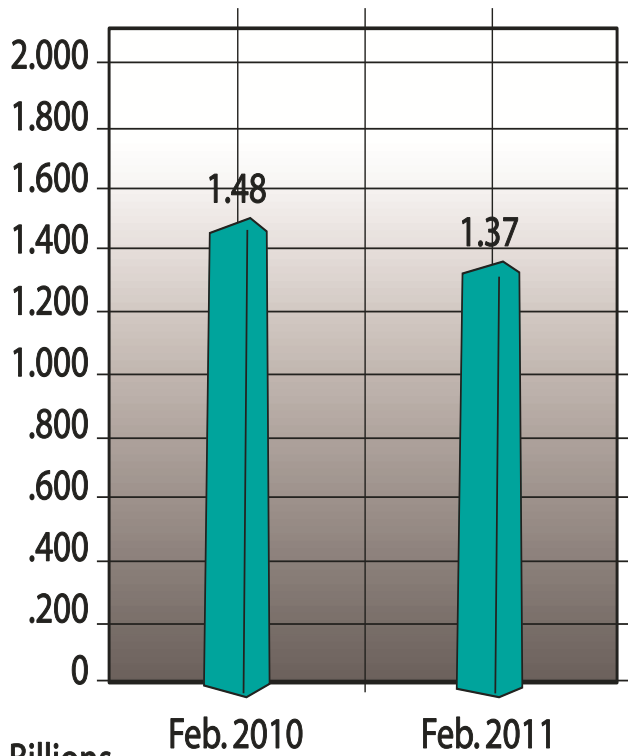
# Drier start to the year is evident in amount of flow treated



There was more snow and run off in 2010 compared so far in 2011. 2010 was also a wet spring.

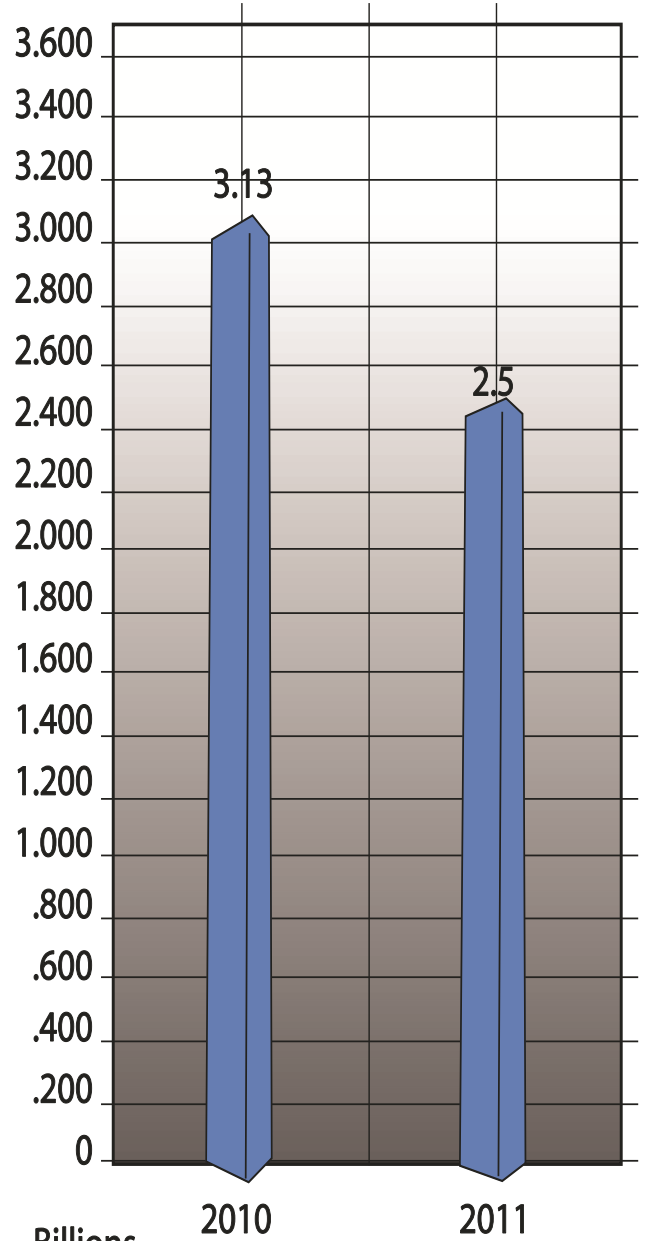


Comparison: Monthly Gallons Treated



Billions of Gallons

Comparison: YTD Gallons Treated



Billions of Gallons

**THE PIPELINE**

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER

The Pipeline is a monthly newsletter published by the JCW director of communications for and about the department's employees.

All questions, comments and submissions should be directed to **Lori Sand** at 913-715-8572 or [lori.sand@jcw.org](mailto:lori.sand@jcw.org).

Submissions must not be more than 500 words.

# A trip to the Big Easy



**Janet Jacobs**, GIS tech, recently returned from a spring trip to New Orleans. She was there during the city's Mardi Gras celebration and brought back these photos to share.



*Johnson County Wastewater cordially invites you to donate your gently used fashion accessories to benefit Feed the Need.*

*We are accepting handbags (designer handbags are especially appreciated), and small accessories, such as make-up bags, sunglasses, wallets, scarves, and gloves.*

*In addition, men's fashion accessories would also be greatly appreciated.*

*Please contact Lori Sand at 913-715-8572 or Marie Seibel at 913-715-8609 to schedule pick-up of your items no later than April 11.*

*Donors will be invited to a pre-sale event for first choice, prior to our fantastic public sale to benefit the local food pantries.*

*We greatly appreciate your donation!*



## Meet Todd Rogers

Senior Engineering Technician

6 years w/JCW, 15 w/Jo Co



- ★ Favorite food: Pizza
- ★ Dream vacation destination: I would love to see the Greek or Roman ruins. I'm a history buff.
- ★ Claim to fame: One of the few people you'll ever meet to have been bitten by a copperhead.
- ★ Most embarrassing moment (that you care to share): Just recently I smacked myself in the head with the car door opening up a gash on my forehead. Ouch!
- ★ Your talent is: Making light of any situation. It comes in handy in tense moments.
- ★ Lessons you have taken: Guitar when I was younger. I still play but not as much as I would like to.
- ★ Your hero: My father. He taught me how to lead by example.
- ★ Famous person you'd like to meet (dead or alive): Will Ferrell. He is a comedic genius.
- ★ In high school you were a: basketball and tennis player.
- ★ Afraid of: When my kids turn 16 and start driving.
- ★ Spend too much on: Eating out at lunch.
- ★ Your passion is: My children. I love being involved with their sports and activities.
- ★ What is your educational background? Bachelors in Biology and Masters in Public Administration.
- ★ Which of the jobs you've held did you most enjoy and why? Stringing tennis rackets and giving tennis lessons to little kids when I was in high school. It was fun working with the little kids and seeing them get better.
- ★ What activities or hobbies do you enjoy? I enjoy playing chess and hiking outdoors (except when there are snakes around).
- ★ If you weren't working for JCW what would you be doing? I would probably be an all-star in the NBA. Look out, LeBron.
- ★ Tell us about something funny that happened to you. I accidentally shot a bottle rocket into someone's house when they opened a back door. Needless to say, I had a lot of apologizing to do.
- ★ What was your New Year's resolution (s)? Lose about 20 pounds. Not doing so good yet.

## Safety Committee Report

### New Business

- The 2011 Safety Committee by-laws have been revised.
- The election of new officers will be postponed until the April meeting. A quorum of the Safety Committee was not present.

### Accidents in February

- Nelson - Operations - employee sustained left forearm abrasion while shoveling sludge into truck. No time lost.
- Middle Basin - two employees were exposed to acid mist and experienced lung and throat irritation. No time lost.
- Middle Basin - Collections - employee strained back while pulling jet hose. No time lost.
- Nelson Treatment - employee fell down the stairs and injured elbow and left wrist. Time lost.

### Discussion for April Safety Committee Meeting

- Election of officers
- Accident reviews

### Next Meeting

April 6, 2011, 9 a.m. in Nelson, MM10 Bldg, Rm 101

## Don't miss out on Free College Day!

Johnson County Community College offered its first Free College Day in 2009 as part of its 40th anniversary celebration. It was such a success then that they are doing it again - this time on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

Classes are 45 minutes long and will be offered at 1, 2 and 3 p.m.



### What you get

- Up to three free college classes
- Live entertainment in the performing arts spaces
- Annual Career and Technical Expo for junior high and high school students and their parents from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

### And it's all free!

You don't have to pay anything, but they ask you to register so they know how many people to expect. Classroom seating is limited. If you have not pre-registered, there may not be room in the classes you want on the day of the event.

Register [here](http://www.jccc.edu/freecollegeday) for Free College Day or go to [www.jccc.edu/freecollegeday](http://www.jccc.edu/freecollegeday) and click on Register in the middle of the page.

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## Cross-functional team updates

### Succession Planning

February 1, 2011

The first class for employees interested in the succession plan training for assistant director, superintendent and assistant superintendent positions is underway and a meeting including them and the Succession Planning Cross-functional Team is scheduled for February 15. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain feedback about the program including the course content, the value of the information, and any changes the participants feel would strengthen the program.

### Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

February 14, 2011

Other wastes - **John Metzler** discussed the potential need to pursue other liquid wastes. We are in the process of contracting with **Stacy Lamer** at Bartlett and West to help identify high strength wastes to accept. There is uncertainty about when to do this, and what funding source to use.

Coordination of billing data - The next step is for Municipal Solutions to train staff on the system. **Doug Nolkemper** anticipates the system will be up and running in stable operation by early March, could go to billing in mid-March.

Process operation/startup - Doug reported that we are trading water on acclimating the digesters. There have been both minor and major eruptions. He believes that are mostly gas management issues, but other problems are occurring. We were up to about 700 gallons per shift, but had to go back down to 600, which is about half of industrial FOG. He still thinks we might reach full industrial FOG loading by early March.



### Did you hear the one about

Four surgeons were taking a coffee break. The first surgeon said, "Accountants are the best to operate on because when you open them up, everything inside is numbered."

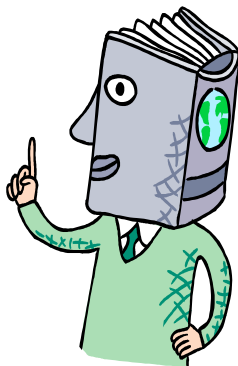
The second surgeon said, "Nah, librarians are the best. Everything inside them is in alphabetical order."

The third surgeon responded, "Try electricians, man! Everything inside them is color coded."

To which the fourth surgeon, who had been quietly listening to the conversation, replied, "I like engineers. They always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end."

## Check it out ...

goodreads is the largest social network for readers in the world. Launched in early December 2006, [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) currently has more than 4.4 million members and 120 million books added to member profiles.



- Get great book recommendations from people you know
  - Track what you've read or what you want to read
  - Form a book club, answer book trivia, collect your favorite quotes
  - Win free copies of pre-release books
  - Swap books
  - Find books with e-books available
- goodreads' mission is to get people excited about reading.**



**Knowledge is power;  
and power is best shared among  
friends.**

**— Otis Y. Chandler  
goodreads founder**

Why am I getting a bill for wasting water!!??



**Customers say the darnedest things!**

This cartoon by **Stephanie White** from HDR was drawn in 2003 when JCW first implemented the user charge. One day, an irate customer visited and stated that he was not wasting water and should not be billed. He left without paying because it was still before the due date.

## Partnership includes savings for all involved

*Continued from Page 1*

The database is uploaded to the rechargeable scanner, inventoried, and then imported back into the software. The device also allows changes to be made to the record of the item inventoried. If, for instance, it's in a different location than what is listed in the database, it can be changed on the spot. A report can then be run which determines whether anything has been missed.

Savings as a result of the software is primarily in time.

“Year-end inventory used to take about a week, now it takes a couple of days,” Hall said. “We used to have to write down every piece of equipment, name, serial number, and location on paper. The driving force with inventory is the yearly ‘true up’ cost for Microsoft licensing per computer. Better records have saved JCW money in that regard, as well.”

JCW's search for a simple, inexpensive inventory program to fit their needs could effectively create an IT inventory standard operating procedure across the county.

“The biggest plus with this would be sharing the cost across departments. This will lower the cost for everyone involved,” Hall noted.

To upgrade to Enterprise will cost \$1,995. This cost would be spread across at least three departments (ITS, TFM, and JCW).

“This collaboration has already saved money for three departments. If other departments make use of the enterprise system instead of buying their own inventory solution, the savings grow,” said **Beth Brandel**, director of Business Operations and Planning. “Tony's initiative to get this effort started is greatly appreciated.”

**John O'Neil**, JCW's general manager, notes the specific impact of Hall's resourcefulness. “Tony has exemplified our mission statement. We are protecting our environment by moving toward a paperless system, serving our customers by keeping accurate and timely inventory records and enhancing our communities by initiating a partnership among county departments which will save money.”

## Don't miss out on Free College Day!

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## *April Celebrations*

### Wastewater Anniversaries

<b>4/23/1981</b>	30	<b>Vernon Schrock</b> cleaning and inspection superintendent
<b>4/15/1985</b>	26	<b>Eddie Simmons</b> treatment crew leader
<b>4/24/1987</b>	24	<b>Scott White</b> HVAC technician
<b>4/20/1992</b>	19	<b>James Mc Kay</b> jet-vac crew leader
<b>4/3/2000</b>	11	<b>Ryan Redinger</b> sewer inspector
<b>4/14/2003</b>	8	<b>Robert Paris</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
<b>4/12/2004</b>	7	<b>Samuel Watson</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
<b>4/18/2005</b>	6	<b>Ronald Rutledge</b> truck driver
<b>4/24/2006</b>	5	<b>John Manis</b> treatment crew member
<b>4/9/2007</b>	4	<b>Bruce Maag</b> industrial electrician
<b>4/21/2008</b>	3	<b>William Rose</b> treatment crew leader
<b>4/7/2008</b>	3	<b>Russell Pittman</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
<b>4/14/2008</b>	3	<b>Robert Vick</b> construction crew member

### Birthdays

<b>Stuart Garmon</b> industrial electrician	2
<b>Harry Shultz</b> treatment crew leader	3
<b>Mike Peppers</b> treatment crew member	10
<b>Scott White</b> HVAC technician	11
<b>Scott Jacobs</b> treatment superintendent	12
<b>Philip Mentgen</b> engineering technician	12
<b>John Manis</b> treatment crew member	13
<b>William Rose</b> treatment crew leader	14
<b>Tony Braack</b> industrial electrician	14
<b>Deborah Lage</b> project specialist	14
<b>Michael Carr</b> TV crew leader	15
<b>Ryan Redinger</b> sewer inspector	15
<b>Richard Howe</b> truck driver	16
<b>Kenneth Cadue</b> treatment crew member	17
<b>Raymond Herndon</b> construction crew member	19
<b>Kenneth Kellison</b> assistant director of treatment	20
<b>David Heckert</b> TV crew leader	21
<b>Roy Ratcliffe</b> fleet maintenance assistant superintendent	22
<b>Lugenia Bronson</b> customer service team leader	26
<b>Jeffrey Doggett</b> senior engineering technician -construction	29