

THE PIPELINE



Volume 7, Issue 6

June 2011

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER

Protecting our environment ♦ Serving our customers ♦ Enhancing our communities

County employees score 25 percent Sam's discount

Sam's Club is pleased to announce a 25 percent **discounted membership offer** for all Johnson County employees.



Everyone is eligible to receive a \$25 gift card when they renew or open a Plus Membership **or** a \$10 gift card when they renew or open an Advantage Membership. All memberships are 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed! Offer expires Oct. 1, 2011.

The Annual Plus Membership is \$100. Plus Membership includes two annual membership cards, plus additional benefits:

- shop earlier hours, 7-10 a.m., Mon.-Sat.
- e-values, weekly merchandise discounts
- pharmacy discounts

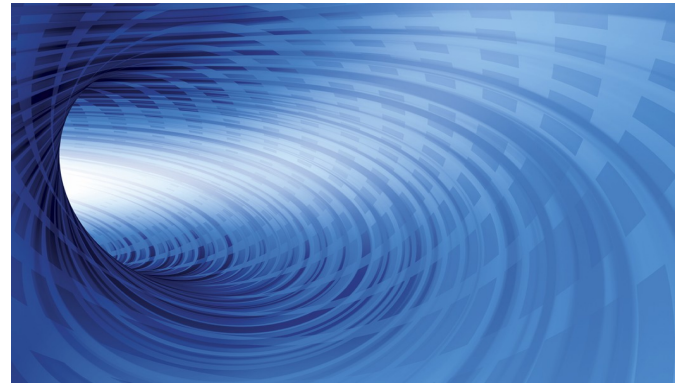
The Advantage Membership includes two annual membership cards – one for you and one for a household member over 18. Annual Advantage Membership is \$40.

To take advantage of this offer, call **Bob Denham** at 913-888-8662.

Mill Creek effluent tunnel project to reduce electric power usage to pump flow

By **Dick Alexander**
senior planning engineer

A major construction project is scheduled to begin this summer at the Mill Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 20001 W. 47th Street in northern Shawnee. Bids were opened on May 17 for construction of the Effluent Tunnel project, which when completed, will convey treated wastewater from the treatment plant by gravity to the existing discharge structure located in the Kansas River.



The tunnel will be about two miles long in a uniform layer of shale located about 110 feet below the ground surface, and will be excavated with a tunnel boring machine. An eight foot diameter effluent pipeline will be installed within the tunnel. The construction contract is in the amount of \$32 million. Our engineers estimated the project would cost about \$40 million. The lowest four bids were within six percent of the low bid. The second low bid was only 0.2 percent higher than the low bid. The Notice to Proceed should be given in early July. The contractor will have 29 months to complete the project. As part of the project, the contractor is required to conduct four tours for about 20 people each.

The treatment plant is at a higher elevation than the Kansas River, even under flood conditions, which makes gravity flow a possibility. The effluent line will function much like a sink trap, where as water enters on the inlet side an equal amount of water exits on the outlet side.

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BoCC chooses lower of two JCW rate scenarios

By **Beth Brandel**
director of Business Operations and Planning

John Metzler, JCW chief engineer/assistant general manager; and **Peggy Howe**, Black & Veatch consultant, presented information to the Johnson County Board of Commissioners (BoCC) at last week's June 23 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Two rate scenarios were presented:

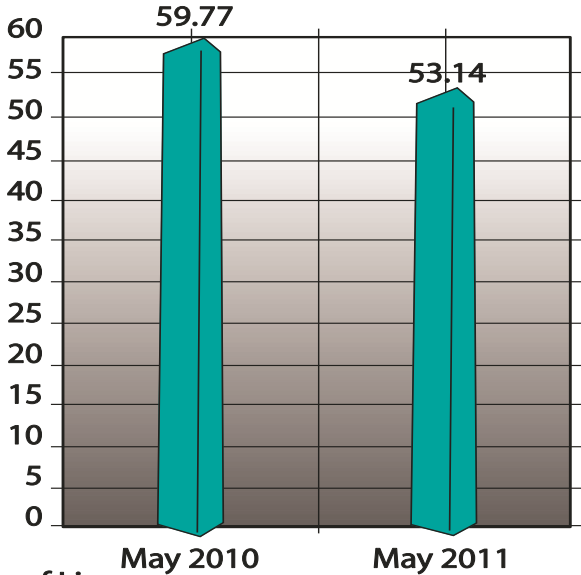
- The first was based on the County Manager's Proposed Budget, and indicated a proposed user charge increase of \$2.17 per month for a median user, an EDU increase of \$0.33 per month, and a combined increase to a median user of \$2.50 per month.

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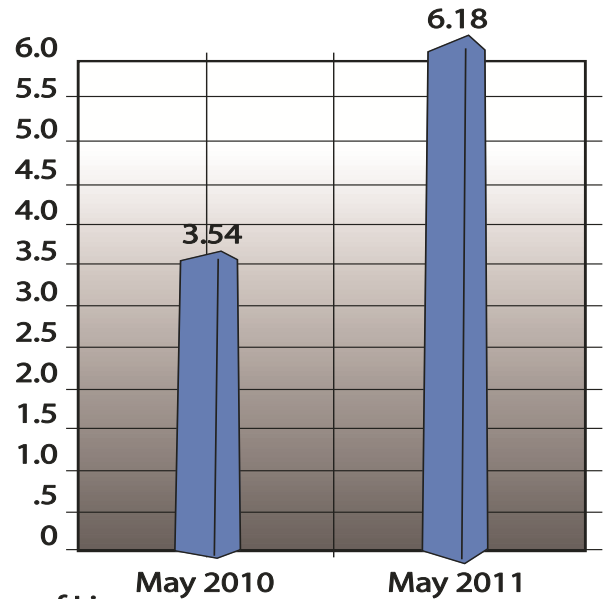
Levels of Service –

Collections' level of service performance measures are on target or above

May: Miles of Lines Cleaned
Target: 52 miles/month



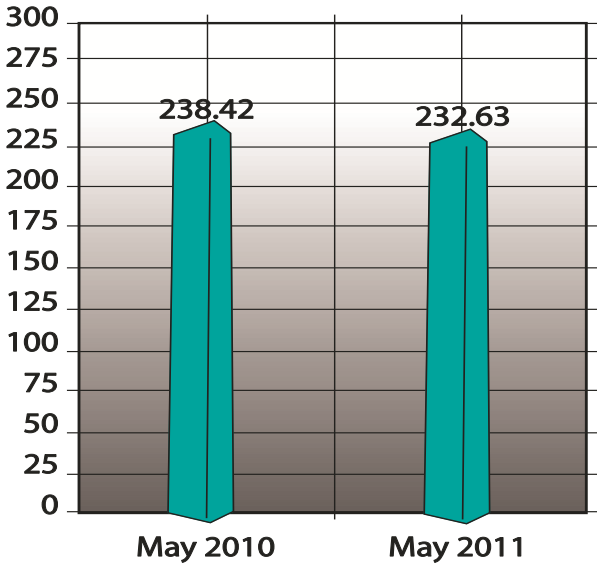
May: Miles of Lines Televised
Target: 3 miles/month



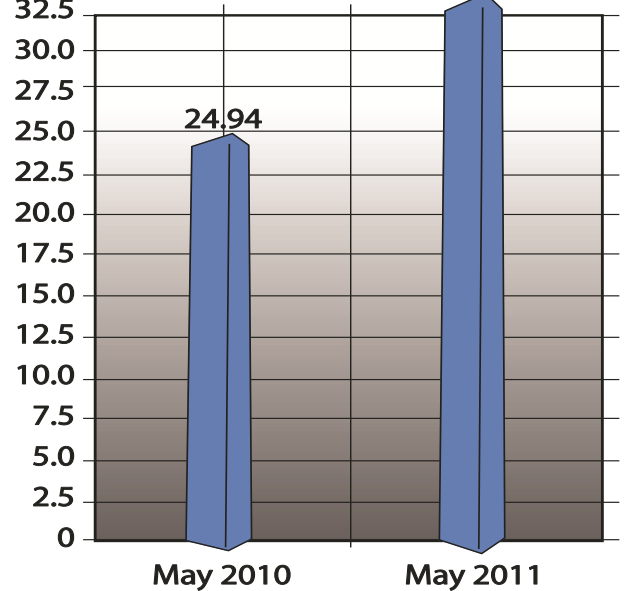
Miles of Lines Cleaned

Miles of Lines Televised

Year to Date Totals



Year to Date Totals



Miles of Lines Cleaned to Date

Miles of Lines Televised to Date

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.

Submissions must not be more than 500 words.

New Faces in New Places

Welcome to JCW



Mark Wilson

Industrial Electrical crew member
May 31, 2011

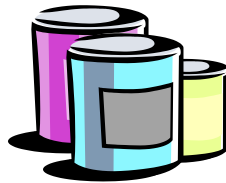
Welcome to **Mark Wilson!** He and his wife, Jodie, have two sons; Tyler Wilson and John Soufhard. Mark is an outdoorsman, enjoying bow hunting and fishing in his spare time. Mark has 16 years of previous experience as an electrician for general construction. Glad to have you join JCW!



Shout Outs

As the 2011 FTN campaign nears the end, special thanks to JCW's FTN committee: co-chairs **Lori Sand** and **Marie Seibel**, joined by **Tony Hall**, **Karen Herrington**, **Peggy Hiatt**, **Bob Koch**, and **Janet Jacobs**.

Thank you also to those of you who have made either financial or material donations, as well as the support you have lent by patronizing FTN events. The need in our community is great and your generosity is *very much* appreciated!

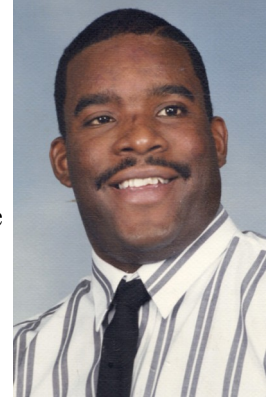


Clint McCammon, treatment crew member, received a half day off as a reward for his winning safety idea. He discovered a safer way to install fall protection which is used when cleaning a Dissolved Air Flotation unit which requires the employee to work from an elevated surface. Congratulations, Clint!

Personality Spotlight

Meet **Ed McKinney**

Cleaning and inspection
crew member
11 years with JCW



- ★ My favorite childhood memory is just making it through the teenage years.
- ★ Favorite food is BBQ and Mexican.
- ★ Favorite vacation destination is Florida.
- ★ My favorite activities are golf, football, and basketball.
- ★ Most embarrassing moment was a time when I was playing golf and I could NOT hit the golf ball!
- ★ My talent is that I'm a hard worker.
- ★ I've taken golf and carpentry lessons.
- ★ My parents are my heroes.
- ★ I would like to meet **Thomas Dexter "T. D." Jakes Sr.** who is the chief pastor of The Potter's House, a non-denominational American megachurch, with 30,000 members, located in Dallas, TX.
- ★ In high school, I was the quiet guy.
- ★ I'm afraid of snakes.
- ★ I spend too much on golf.
- ★ My passion is golf and work.
- ★ I've most enjoyed inspection and line cleaning work because I get to interact with the residents and work with co-workers.
- ★ If I weren't working for JCW, I'd be cooking.
- ★ Something funny - once I had to wear pink and blue pants all day at work because as I was taking out the trash, some spilled bleach in the can got all over my clothes.
- ★ My least favorite sound is thunder - when it's lightning I just can't be outside!
- ★ The one thing that would surprise most people - I play **A LOT of GOLF!**
- ★ My favorite word is *Hello* - it starts off a good morning and shows some personality.
- ★ I'm guilty of not saving money and not going to church enough.
- ★ When I grow up, I want to be married for life.

Lake Quivira slated to undergo system rehabs and replacements

More than \$4.7 million in improvements to the wastewater system located in the city of Lake Quivira received the green light by the Johnson County Board of Commissioners.

Funding of the construction phase of the Lake Quivira project was set at \$4,734,000, increasing the total project authorization to \$5.4 million.

The project includes rehabilitation and replacement of approximately 22,000 feet of sanitary sewer and 84 manholes. The improvements will encompass about a third of the Lake Quivira wastewater system, with portions dating back to the 1940s. A significant portion of the system needs to be repaired, rehabilitated, or replaced in order to meet the current standards of Johnson County Wastewater. The improvements to the system will also address structural integrity and reduce infiltration and inflow of rainwater and groundwater into the system.

Since March 2005, the county has had an agreement with the city of Lake Quivira and Quivira, Inc. to upgrade portions of the Lake Quivira system to JCW's standards.

Under the agreement, Lake Quivira agreed to pay the costs of upgrading the sewer system from 6 to 8 inch diameter lines, which represent about 40 percent of this project's costs.

In January 2011, the county and city approved an addendum to the agreement allowing for JCW to include Lake Quivira's share of the projected costs with the bond financing the county arranges for its share of the cost.

Under the addendum, the city will pay its proportionate share of the annual principal and interest payments. It is estimated that Lake Quivira will be responsible for \$1,378,000 of the projected construction phase cost.

In a related action, the board authorized a \$3,455,200 contract with Rodriguez Mechanical Contractors, Inc. to construct the Lake Quivira Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The firm submitted the lowest bid among nine bidders. The other bids ranged from \$3,516,485 to \$6,959,573.

Construction is scheduled for completion by September 2012.

Cross-functional team update

Engineering Standards

May 25, 2011

Product Evaluation Committee (PEC) - JCW is testing concrete control cylinders that have a Conshield additive incorporated to retard concrete corrosion in wastewater environments. Control and test cylinders have been placed in manholes subject to corrosion. The testing and evaluation will take approximately a year to complete. Dan Ott suggested outsourcing the development of the PEC procedures and product evaluations to one of JCW's consultants. He also suggested that the consultant sit on the PEC to discuss the evaluations with JCW. This idea and funding will be discussed further. A recent submittal from a manufacturer of a dissimilar material pipe connector will be evaluated with the term and supply engineers.

Transfer of Responsibility for KDHE Stormwater/Erosion Permits - GBA developed front end language on this topic which will be incorporated into our specs immediately and into the final Best Management Practices report.

Bid Document Submittals - There are issues with the volume of documents the bidders must submit. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27 at 8 a.m.

Safety Committee updates

New Business

- All Safety Committee members are invited to attend Hazard Identification Training, moderated by Frank Manners, training and safety coordinator, on June 17, 9 a.m. at the Nelson Complex.
- The department's Emergency Plan will be reviewed at the July 6 Safety Committee Meeting. A review of the communication with field personnel in case of emergencies will be discussed.
- **Clint McCammon**, treatment crew member, received a half day off for the safety idea for fall protection at the Blue River plant.



Accidents in May

- Two tick bites in Collections—no lost time.

Discussion for July Safety Committee Meeting

- Safety Fair preparations

Upcoming training

- Hazard Identification, June 17, 9 a.m. at the Nelson Complex.

Next meeting

- July 6, Nelson, MM10 Bldg. 9 a.m., Room 101

What did YOU do on your summer vacation?

Dan Ott, collections system engineer, and his family visited Europe in the spring.



Stonehenge and my oldest son, Peyton, age 6.

Coast of West Wales – My oldest son Peyton with his cousin, Andrew.



Carphilly Castle in Wales – 2 older boys – Prosper (4) and Peyton (6).

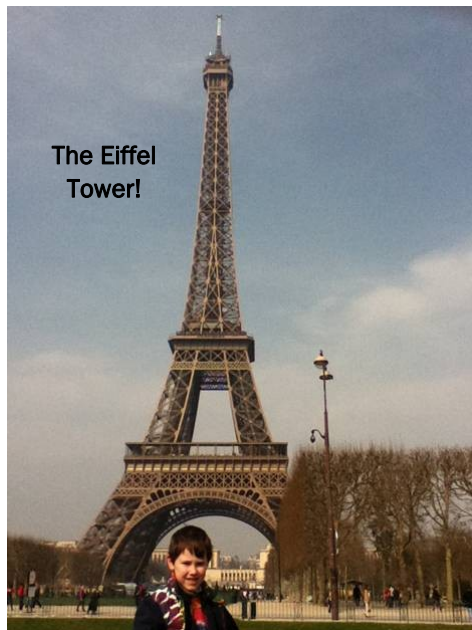


Napoleon's Tomb

Here are a few of my favorite pics from the family vacation I took in March.....

Thanks for letting me share my fun!

Dan Ott



The Eiffel Tower!

In the blink of an eye — life has changed forever in Joplin, Missouri



Photos and story By **Katie McQueen**

Like many, I watched in shock and disbelief as the first images of Joplin emerged. We have family ties to the area and were so thankful they were unharmed, but were heartbroken for those most affected.

I arrived early Tuesday morning, 36 hours after the tornado hit. The morning was spent in a clinic set up at the college, caring for victims who lost their homes and were in need of various levels of medical care. We dispensed medications, assessed wounds and listened to their stories while attempting to provide some sort of comfort. Within hours, I was called out to the field to work search and rescue.

During the rest of my stay, I served as a team lead, combing through neighborhoods and fields. Words cannot describe the aftermath. The destruction was unimaginable and surreal. It was shocking and devastating each and every time I took in the scene. Even those who were most familiar with the area had trouble recognizing their surroundings as we made our way through assigned locations.

I worked side by side with numerous volunteers from the entire Midwest region. Even in the wake of the tragedy, there were also many citizens of Joplin out providing food and water, expressing their appreciation to those there to help their community.

Today, I still think about what those few seconds were like for those who experienced it and what it must have been like immediately afterward. My heart goes out to those who have suffered and to those who will continue to suffer due to the mental anguish.

At the same time, I saw firsthand how tragedy can bring people together. I was reminded of how wonderful it is to live in the heart of America where people help people in need. Your donations and prayers are hard at work and so appreciated by the people of Joplin.

*Special thanks to Katie who is married to JCW employee **Patrick McQueen**. She is a house supervisor & RN for Saint Luke's East, Lee's Summit*

JCW's **Terry McQuerry**, wastewater project engineer, also traveled to Joplin to volunteer with the Clay-Platte Baptist Association for Disaster Relief. He spent four days, cleaning debris.

"The scope of the disaster was so great," he said. "It was hard to believe that a storm could be that large and that powerful. I am wondering what they will do with the massive amounts of debris. It is going to take them a very long time to recover from this."

MC effluent tunnel project to reduce electric power usage to pump flow

Continued from Page 1

Plant effluent is currently pumped approximately two miles through a 42 inch force main located along Holliday Drive. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Water District No. 1 (WaterOne) have always required that treated wastewater from the plant be discharged to the Kansas River at a location downstream of the WaterOne water intake on the Kansas River east of Interstate 435.

The existing Mill Creek Regional Effluent Pump Station was designed to handle year 2010 flows, and additional capacity is now needed. A study prepared by Black & Veatch determined that a tunnel would be more cost effective than pumping when the cost of operating and maintaining a pump station is considered. A substantial reduction in electric power usage will be realized since no power will be used to convey flow through the effluent tunnel. After flow is diverted into the tunnel, the existing pumps and piping will be removed from the pump station, and the wet well will be filled, leaving the building available for a yet undetermined future use.

BoCC chooses lower of two JCW rate scenarios

Continued from Page 1

- The alternative was based on direction from the BoCC on May 12, which indicated a proposed user charge increase of \$1.76 per month for a median user, and EDU increase of \$0.33 per month, and a combined increase to a median user of \$2.09 per month.

The BoCC formally voted and approved the alternative scenario, and the resulting rates will take effect Jan. 1, 2012.

As of Jan. 1, 2012, JCW will have 202 approved and funded positions, which is fewer staff than in 1996. As you may recall, 6.5 positions were eliminated as of Jan 1, 2011 and nine positions were unfunded for 2011. For the 2012 budget year, the nine unfunded positions were eliminated, and an additional seven positions will be eliminated, resulting in a staffing reduction of 22.5 positions in the period from Dec. 31, 2010 to Jan. 1, 2012. This impacts vacant positions only.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks to everyone at JCW for all your dedication and hard work as we continue to work through difficult budget challenges.

ArtsKC deemed a big success!

By **Mindi Love**
2011 Chair



The 2011 ArtsKC Fund workplace giving campaign resulted in 60 percent more funding and 62 percent more participation compared to 2010.

New to this year's Johnson County campaign was an exhibit of artwork created by our own Johnson County employees. It was an amazing display of 89 works of creativity from 39 of our employees in 15 county departments. All county employees were encouraged to vote for their three favorites in a "People's Choice" contest. In total 418 employees cast their votes.

The winners were:

- First place: **Jess Collins** in the Mental Health Department for his work entitled *Aspens*
- Second place: **Carrie Dvorak** with the Museum for her photograph *Female Cardinal*
- And third place was a tie between: **Aaron Menning** with the Sheriff's Department for his carved emu egg and **Brian Porch** with the District Attorney's Office for his photograph *Escalator*.

In the campaign, a total of 45 county employees contributed \$5,105 to this year's ArtsKC Fund. The top departments and agencies were:

- First place award to the Johnson County Library with a total of \$868 in contributions. The library also received the traveling trophy created by local artist Brian Stephens.
- Second place award to the County Manager's Office with \$836 in contributions.
- Third place award to the Human Resources Department with \$640 in contributions.

JCW's **Karen Sorensen** was a winner of a performing arts ticket package.

This year's campaign was organized by a committee of county employees who did a tremendous job infusing new life into the ArtsKC Fund workplace giving campaign. Committee members were: **Venus Auxier**, Library; **Chrissey Breault**, CMO; **Betsy Betros**, ENV; **Carmen Carter**, ITS; **Mike Chamberlin**, Facilities; **Marilyn Lyons**, Park & Recreation; **Arah Montague**, Appraisers; **Commissioner Ed Peterson**; **Lory Rodak**, Park & Recreation; and **Fred Trease**, ENV.

I want to personally thank everyone for their support of this year's campaign! It was a great success!

July Celebrations

Wastewater Anniversaries

7/10/1978	33	Timothy Lawrence construction grounds crew leader
7/2/1979	32	Jimmie Hunsucker engineer specialist
7/18/1983	28	Ted Sanborn treatment crew member
7/16/1984	27	Peggy Hiatt engineering technician
7/11/1984	27	Deborah Lage project specialist
7/16/1990	21	Kurt Winters director of O&M
7/10/1995	16	David Heckert TV crew leader
7/31/1995	16	Roger Sullivan cleaning crew leader
7/20/1998	13	Corey Taylor line construction crew leader
7/26/1999	12	Manuel Tovalin cleaning/inspection crew member
7/1/1999	12	Aaron Witt engineering manager
7/24/2000	11	Edward McKinney cleaning/inspection crew member
7/10/2003	8	Tony Braack industrial electrician
7/10/2006	5	Gordon Rames development engineer
7/21/2008	3	John Beery treatment crew member
7/21/2008	3	Michael Henry lead automotive technician

Birthdays

Teresa Crane customer service representative	1
Robert Kimmons cleaning crew leader	2
Bradley Girard cleaning/inspection crew member	4
Kevin Figge senior engineering technician	6
Troy Young BUPP coordinator	12
Johnny Whitesell construction crew member	14
Kenneth Standiford treatment crew member	19
Terry McQuerry wastewater project engineer	22
Kevin Boggs treatment crew member	23
Larry Jiskra cleaning/inspection crew member	24
John Metzler chief engineer	26
Lonnie Ponder senior inspector	26
Wesley Carroll cleaning/inspection crew member	29
Stuart Lord planning engineer	30
Kimberly Wasko executive assistant	31

