

# THE PIPELINE

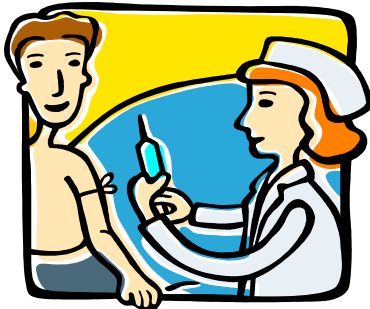


Volume 7, Issue 10

October 2011

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER

## Beat the flu bug!



Free flu shots are still available to county employees and their dependents.

Vaccine for County employees and dependents has also been provided to the Public Health Clinics located at the Northeast Office (6000 Lamar, Mission) and Health and Human Services Center, 11875 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe. Free shots can be obtained during **regular clinic hours**.

**Other sources for flu vaccine:** the county's three medical plans provide coverage for flu shots. Two of the easiest locations, due to their availability, are Walgreens' Take Care Clinic and CVS' Minute Clinics.

Be sure you go to the **Clinic** and **do not receive the flu shot in the pharmacy**.

Be sure to show your BCBSKC ID Card.

If you have any questions regarding the flu vaccination clinics, you can call your Wellness Coordinator or **Christine Wilkerson** at 715-0705.



From left—John O'Neil, JCW general manager, joins John Mitchell, KDHE, Karen Flournoy, EPA, and Ed Eilert, BoCC in cutting the ribbon with the giant scissors at the DLSMB FOG co-generation facility on Oct. 5. They were joined by other county and city officials, as well as project engineers and the contractor.

## County celebrates completion of two MB projects

County, city, state and regional dignitaries gathered in early October for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of two recently completed projects at the Douglas L. Smith Middle Basin Wastewater Treatment Plant – the fats, oil, and grease (FOG) co-generation facility and the biological nutrient removal (BNR) facility.

The program on Oct. 5 included comments from **John Mitchell**, director of the Division of Environment with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment; **Karen Flournoy**, the acting division director for the Water Wetlands and Pesticides Division of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7; and **Ed Eilert**, chairman of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners.

**Mike Laird**, president of BRB Contractors, also presented the county with the Associated General Contractors Award which BRB won for the FOG project.

Facility tours were led for the nearly 50 people in attendance by **Doug Nolkemper**, operations engineer, and **Susan Pekarek**, wastewater treatment project engineer.

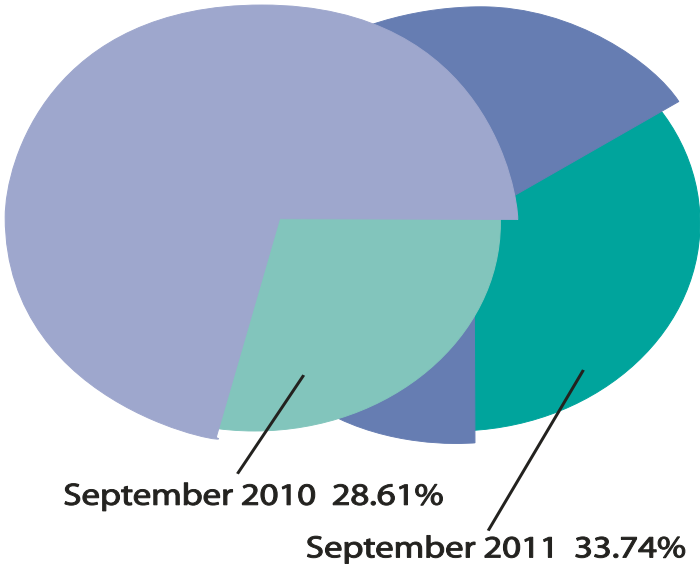
The bio nutrient removal project at this plant is the largest in the state. The completion of the BNR and plant expansion of the wet weather facilities demonstrates Johnson County's commitment to protecting our environment.

The solids improvement project (FOG) was chosen by federal and state partners to receive ARRA funding. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is the lead federal agency on the project, and the funds are being administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The \$18.4 million project is funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and nearly 50 percent of the funds are eligible for principal forgiveness while the balance is funded by a low interest loan. Payback on this project will be somewhere between eight and 16 years.

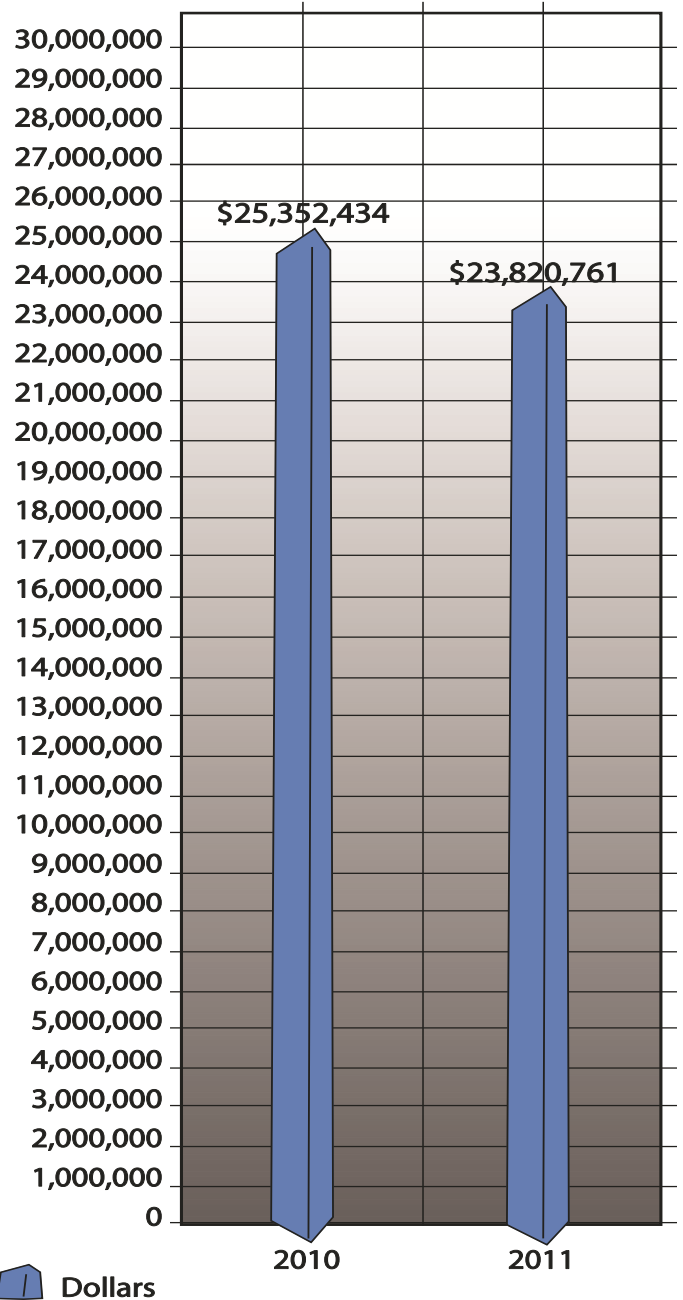
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# Status of JCW's budget and comparisons to 2010

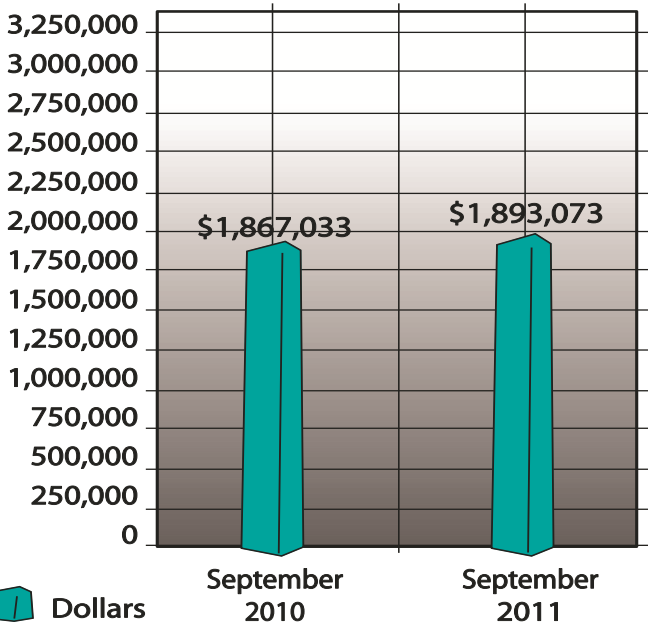
**Percent of Budget Remaining**  
(including encumbrances)



**Budget Expenses Incurred Year to Date Total**



**Budget Expenses Incurred**



**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 very special thank you to the **staff at the DLS Middle Basin Treatment Plant** for the great support in preparation for the recent ribbon cutting ceremony at the FOG facility. They made sure the grounds looked great, the area was neat, and transported, set up and took down chairs. The place has never looked better. Your cooperation was very much appreciated! Thank you all!!!

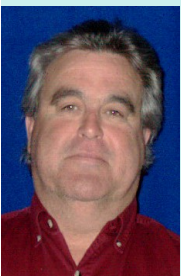
The wastewater department has said good-bye to several employees as they have retired from JCW. We wish you the best.



**Robert Duvall**  
Treatment Crew Member, 15 yrs



**Donnie Kirkpatrick**  
Treatment Supt, 34 yrs



**Curtis Norris**  
Treatment Supt, 33 yrs



**Ted Sanborn**  
Treatment Crew Member, 28 yrs



**Paul Turner**  
Pumps Crew Leader, 30 yrs



THIS is the kind of email any supervisor would be thrilled to receive:

*I wanted to let you know about the incredible thing one of your employees did for me this week.*

*I got an email Monday night from **Brad Girard**, letting me know he had found my I-pad in a gutter. I responded and he was able to meet me after work to return it.*



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Meet **Joe Greer**

With JCW for five years  
Third shift team leader



- ★ My favorite childhood memory is visiting Colonial Williamsburg in the fall, seeing the leaves change and hearing the sound of horses' feet on cobblestone roads.
- ★ Favorite food is chicken soup with mysterious leftovers from the back of the refrigerator added.
- ★ Dream vacation destination is anywhere with trees, mountains, and poor cell phone reception.
- ★ My claim to fame - I met Bob Dole in person once, remembered to shake his left hand. Go me!
- ★ My most embarrassing moment (that I care to share): No. Why? Who sent you!?
- ★ My talent is staying awake.
- ★ Lessons I have taken: piano, ninjutsu, and Irish folk dance.
- ★ My hero is **Steve Buscemi**, oddball character actor and unrecognized firefighter following the 9/11 tragedy. Google him sometime.
- ★ A famous person I'd like to meet (dead or alive): Same guy.
- ★ In high school I was shorter and weighed less, too.
- ★ I'm afraid of skeletons. They're just hiding inside everyone you meet. Waiting.
- ★ I spend too much on sushi. But you have to go for quality when you're about as far as you can get from the ocean. Am I right?
- ★ My passion is bowling balls, they're just so darn cool. It doesn't matter that I don't actually like bowling that much.
- ★ I enjoy walking through art galleries and pretending I understand what I'm looking at. Or just walking around in general and doing the same.
- ★ If I weren't working for JCW I'd be hanging out at the library, just reading, and bothering the librarians.
- ★ Finish this sentence: *When I grow up I want to be a... wizened master of kung fu. Or just a smart old guy who's knees and back don't hurt that much. Yeah, that would be good.*



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*This would be similar to someone finding \$700 on the street and taking the time to find it's owner and return it to him. I'm not sure what sort of employee Brad is, but I can confidently say that he is a very honest person.*

Great job, Brad, modeling our core value of integrity!

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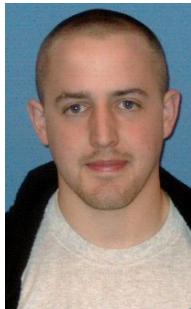
Congratulations to these Succession Planning Program participants who were recently promoted! It's great to hear such positive results.



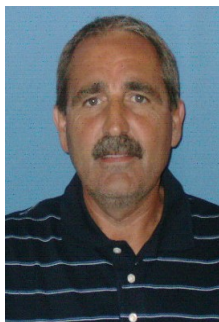
**Jamie Silvers** was promoted from crew member to assistant superintendent.



**Sam Kingsolver** was promoted from team leader to assistant superintendent.



**Patrick Gardner** was promoted from crew member to team leader.



**David Schoneman**

Treatment crew member  
Sept. 27, 2011

Welcome to **David Schoneman**! He and his wife, Cheryl, have a daughter, Haley, 16; and two sons Kyle, 14 and Cole, 11. David enjoys woodworking and working around the farm. He has 20 years of experience in the maintenance field and attended vocational-technical school to study the building trade. Glad to have you join JCW!

## Safety Committee Report

### New Business

- Gas Detector Systems - Danco will evaluate units at plants. Systems will be repaired and JCW employees will be trained on calibrating fixed systems.

### Accidents in September

- Vehicle backing - four backing accidents last month - no lost time.

### Upcoming Training

- Vehicle backing - Nov. 16, 2011
- Gas detector - October 2011

The next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 5, 2011, at 9 a.m. Nelson, MM10 Bldg, Room 101.

## The clock is ticking ...

Employees have a few days left before the Nov. 1, 2011, deadline to meet the **four wellness requirements** to avoid the nonparticipation fee.

If you don't want to pay an extra \$30 per month and you haven't yet completed the requirements, you'd better git to gittin!

Click on Health Risk Appraisal at <http://jococonnect/engaged/wellness/pages/default.aspx>

The **2012 Open Enrollment** period is right around the corner. This year, the meetings will be a little later than they have been in the past, running from Nov. 22 through Dec. 9, with enrollment continuing through Dec. 15. Watch for future open enrollment notifications regarding the following topics:

- New dependents - who you will be adding for the 2012 plan year
- Oracle username and password
- Open enrollment deadlines
- 2012 benefit options and changes

If you have any questions, please contact the TFM-Benefits Department at 715-0700 or send an email to [tfmtbenefits@jocogov.org](mailto:tfmtbenefits@jocogov.org).

The county's **Volunteer Retirement Incentive Program** has a deadline of Nov. 29, 2011. Eligible employees may choose to accept the VRIP by indicating by that deadline their intent to voluntarily participate, with a resignation date between Dec. 12, 2011 and Jan. 21, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact H.R. staff at 715-8747 or send an email to [VRIP@jocogov.org](mailto:VRIP@jocogov.org).

## Cross-Functional Team Reports

### IT

The IT group has obtained 52 desktop PCs from other Johnson County departments and is in the process of getting them ready for use by JCW staff. The machines will run Windows 7 and will be deployed to users on an “as needed” basis. JCW is fortunate to have staff who are capable of performing this kind of work, which saves approximately \$700 per machine when compared to the cost of buying new Dell PCs.

### Communications

A CoW presentation was made to the BoCC on Sept. 22, at which time they approved the Public Input Communication Plan on the topic of JCW’s proposed Combined Charges. Public meetings are scheduled from Nov. 15 through Jan. 24. A report will be made to the BoCC at a CoW to be scheduled for February 2012.

### Engineering Standards

Sept. 28, 2011

**Accuracy of As-Builts** - Discussion of what it is we are trying to achieve. The EI group is hiring GBA to capture as-built type information. Suggested we require the design/inspection engineering firm do the survey work. Also discussed pros and cons of sealing as-builts. Was decided to discuss this with private sector consultants.

**New Retainage Law** - Seems the contract documents are mostly in compliance with the new law. Concluded all projects should be able to use the same language calling for 10% retainage at 50% completion, and holding for the rest of the project. A discussion of incentives for contractors to do restoration. Agreed to discuss later if we want a specifier’s note with higher retainage for projects where restoration is needed.

**Bid Document Submittals** - Met with Purchasing and Legal on pilot project bid documents. There are issues with the volume of documents the bidders must submit. Need a bid document submittal checklist, based on input from the only firm that bid the project. Will forward checklist to the group to decide at next meeting.



### Peek-a-Boo, Can You Guess Who?

No guesses were submitted, but this little mystery baby is **Marie Seibel**, JCW network analyst.

## County celebrates completion of two MB projects

*Continued from Page 1*

The wastewater department is already achieving the estimated annual cost savings of nearly \$500,000, recovering almost half of this plant’s energy costs.

The solids improvement project is helping Johnson County to achieve its greenhouse gas emissions goals set in 2007 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one-third by 2020. This project reduces the county’s carbon footprint by 9,700 metric tons annually.

## Plan, follow through and achieve!

By Celeste Chaney

A plan is the best thing to have in place before going forward with an action in order to have a successful outcome.

Many of us use planning in our professional environment but are very lax in applying this at home. How many of you make a list, review your list and compare it before going shopping? Very few. Most of us just glance over the cupboards and the refrigerator and then go shopping.

How many of you know what you are going to have for dinner this week? Again, probably very few. In this month’s article, we will discuss how to plan ahead, eat at home, and spend less.

Most of us have schedules that allow little time for meal preparation, which results in eating out or making not-so-healthy choices at meal times. We are always looking for a quick fix, but remember you are what you eat and bad decisions have not-so-good outcomes.

Quick fixes can be achieved with good choices. Here is a link to crock pot recipes full of healthy choices.

<http://www.campbellskitchen.com/SearchRecipesResult.aspx?q=crock+pot&filter=&fbid=rXVyXRNiUAX>

- Planning begins with meals and shopping for ingredients.
- Plan meals for the next 7 days
- Check the pantry, cupboards and refrigerator for items on hand
- Write/type out the grocery list
- Check grocery ads and clip coupons for items as needed
- See which items qualify as bulk purchases: flour, sugar, salt, nuts, fruit, cheese, meats, rice, beans, etc. (anything that can be frozen and/or stored for long periods of time)
- Buy fruits and vegetables on sale

*Please turn to Page 6*

## November Celebrations

### Wastewater Anniversaries

11/29/1978	33	<b>Andrew Super</b> assistant superintendent collections
11/9/1979	32	<b>Darrell Thornbrugh</b> assistant director of collections
11/10/1986	25	<b>Stacy Gallick</b> asset management director
11/3/1986	25	<b>Michael Carr</b> TV crew leader
11/12/1990	21	<b>Julie Moser</b> accountant
11/13/1992	19	<b>John Wilson</b> treatment crew member
11/30/1999	12	<b>Steven Garrison</b> maintenance crew member
11/12/2001	10	<b>Kenneth Cadue</b> treatment crew member
11/6/2003	8	<b>Steven Smith</b> industrial electrician
11/15/2005	6	<b>Carrie Littlefield</b> customer service rep
11/6/2006	5	<b>David Rush</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
11/27/2006	5	<b>Joseph Greer</b> treatment crew leader
11/15/2007	4	<b>Patrick Gardner</b> treatment crew leader
11/2/2009	2	<b>Jeffrey Shoemaker</b> HVAC technician

### Birthdays

<b>Brandon Worley</b> treatment crew member	2
<b>Manuel Tovalin</b> cleaning/inspection crew member	9
<b>Zachary Millbern</b> permit group supervisor	15
<b>Abraham Vargas</b> industrial electrician	20
<b>Jennifer Harder</b> new development engineering manager	24
<b>Trevor Smith</b> equipment operator	26
<b>Jamie Silvers</b> treatment assistant superintendent	27
<b>Karen Sorensen</b> internet projects coordinator	28
<b>Aaron Witt</b> engineering manager	30



*Plan, follow through and achieve!*

*Continued from Page 5*

- Buy in bulk to save many in between trips to the store
  - Know your spending limit
  - Set a goal (make sure it is realistic and achievable)
  - Stick to the plan!
- Bulk purchases allow you to buy larger quantities at

a lower price, (per unit or per item).

By using the steps above, you will not only be able to have a plan in place for meals, but you can also allot for the time that it will take for meal preparation and reduce your spending.

When you implement a plan, follow through and you will achieve!