

# THE PIPELINE



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER



Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2011

Protecting our environment ♦ Serving our customers ♦ Enhancing our communities

## GKCFPC to conduct food - system survey

The Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition (GKCFPC) encourages residents of the Kansas City metro to logon and fill out a questionnaire about their food purchasing habits. The questionnaire is designed to assess residents' access to healthy food, as well as their attitudes about food and eating. The questionnaire is at <http://foodhabitssurvey.questionpro.com>.



The survey was developed by the coalition, with assistance from the Mid-America Regional Council, as a way to better understand the region's food challenges and resources. The information provided will help the coalition determine how the region can address those challenges.

*Please turn to Page 5*

## Take a tour of JCW's SharePoint site

By Karen Sorensen  
internet projects coordinator



You go there every time you log on to the Internet from your county computer - or at least you should unless your settings have been changed - but have you spent much time there?

JCW launched it's own [SharePoint site](#) several months ago, but a lot of employees have yet to become acquainted with all that it has to offer. Not only is it a resource, but it also offers opportunities for staff to communicate and interact. Let's take a quick tour.

Have you noticed the **Thought for the Day** in the middle of the right-hand column? You can submit your words of wisdom for inclusion! Have you explored the [Your 2 Cents Worth](#) icon located in the upper right quadrant of JCW's intranet? Click on it and you'll find a quick survey that asks for your input and compares your answer with all the other JCW employees who participate. This month's inquiry is asking us "How long before you plan to retire?"

*Please turn to Page 5*

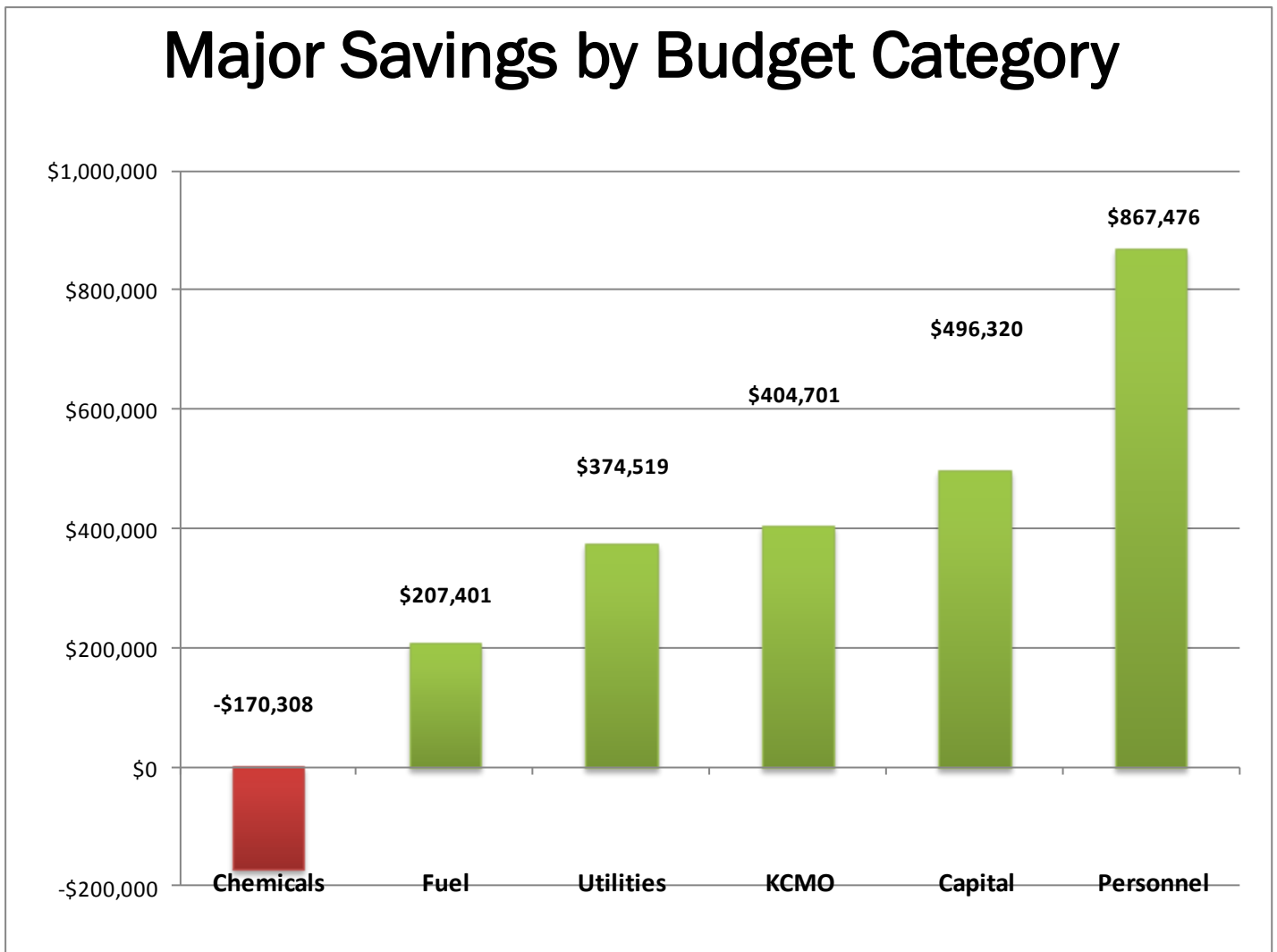


Freshmen Commissioners **Michael Ashcraft** (left) and **Jason Osterhaus** (center) recently toured the DLSMB plant along with County Manager **Hannas Zacharias** and Deputy County Manager **Bernice Duletski**. Before viewing the co-gen project, Director of Operations and Maintenance **Kurt Winters** (right) gave a basic lesson in how the solids settle during the treatment process.

# 2010 Budget to Actual Expenses

Budgeted	Actual	Savings From Budget	Under Budget %
\$37,293,219	\$35,662,600	(\$1,630,619)	-4.37%

## Major Savings by Budget Category



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.

Currently, there are only three employees in the Grounds area responsible for snow removal and salt/sanding of roads at all JCW facilities. In an event such as the Feb. 1 snow storm, **Tim Lawrence** and **Kyle Sidwell** started early by pre-treating the roads. Once the snow began falling, they worked through the night to keep the roads open, and eventually had to re-plow everything due to blowing and drifting snow—and that was just at the main plants. When **Charlie Mathis** arrived, they were able to cover ground more quickly. Once the main roads were passable, they directed their attention to clearing the roads at all pump stations. Due to the large number of outlying stations, crews from the Line Repair group, led by **Jerry Wallander** and **Paul McClure**, used their equipment to help clear from the eastside priority stations, as well as any areas that were missed at the Nelson Complex. In addition to snow removal for JCW, **Corey Taylor** and **Sean Kelley** were on temporary loan to Johnson County Public Works to help with snow removal in rural Johnson County. Great job, guys! Thanks for all you do!



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Congratulations to **Susan Pekarek**, treatment project engineer, who was selected by the Water Environmental Research Foundation (WERF) to serve on an Energy Management Exploratory Team, a select group of industry professionals chosen from across the nation and as far away as Australia. They met recently at WERF headquarters in Alexandria, VA to address the challenge statement:

*Provide research to develop new approaches that will allow wastewater treatment plants to be energy neutral, and thus able to operate solely on the energy embedded in the water and wastes they treat.*

Their work session was focused primarily on identifying a research strategy to address implementation and research gaps related to energy demand and supply for wastewater treatment. A draft report has been developed, and the research strategy, along with the report and recommended schedule, will be presented to the WERF Research Council in March.

**Did you hear the one about...**

*How do you cook toilet paper? You brown it on both sides and throw it in the pot.*

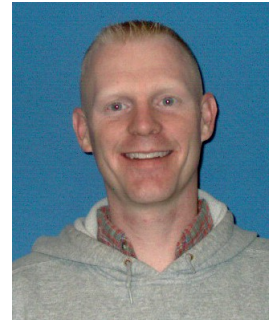
**Derek Long**  
industrial electrician



*Have a funny sewer or wastewater story or joke you want to share? Send it in, but keep it clean!*

**Personality Spotlight**

Meet **Joseph Wesley Barnes**  
engineering technician



- ★ *Favorite childhood memory:* Going to the farm. We rode dirt bikes, fished, and shot guns.
- ★ *Favorite food:* Anything wild. I like nachos, too.
- ★ *Dream vacation destination:* Moose hunting in Alaska with my Recurve Bow.
- ★ *Claim to fame:* I once shot a goose that had a neck collar. The Fish and Game Department tags birds with leg bands and a very small percentage with neck collars. These neck collars are used for long distance identification by the Fish and Game Department. My buddies are still envious.
- ★ *Most embarrassing moment (that you care to share):* My buddy was graduating from the police academy in Topeka and my wife and I were running a little late. We tried to casually enter the ceremony filled with approximately 300 people. We got in the room and my wife leaned up against the light switches and the room went dark. Needless to say, we didn't find our seats without being noticed.
- ★ *Your talent is:* hunting
- ★ *Lessons you have taken:* Treat others the way you would like to be treated.
- ★ *Your hero:* My grandfather
- ★ *Famous person you'd like to meet (dead or alive):* Fred Bear, he was a great traditional bow shooter.
- ★ *In high school, you were a:* Wild Man! Catholic school for 12 years brought that out in me.
- ★ *Afraid of:* surgery. I can butcher any animal, but when it comes to watching surgery or shots - you can count me out.
- ★ *Spend too much on:* tools and hunting equipment.
- ★ *Your passion is:* family, remodeling, and hunting.
- ★ *Finish this sentence: When I grow up I want to be ... a* successful custom home builder.

**Notice to all Golfers**

Any JCW staff member who is interested in playing in a county golf league is asked to contact Ed McKinney at [ed.mckinney@jcw.org](mailto:ed.mckinney@jcw.org) or 913-461-8450.

## Safety Committee Report

### New Business

- Safety Committee in 2011 will attend an OSHA workshop entitled *General Industry Workshop*, held at Zink Safety on Mar. 14.
- The election of new officers and by-laws review will be postponed until the March meeting. Due to inclement weather, a quorum was not present.

### Accidents in January

- Pumps Group - employee slipped while getting into truck - shoulder strain. No lost time.
- Pumps Group - employee strained back while dumping rags. No lost time.
- EI Group - employee slipped and fell on ice while

getting into own vehicle. No lost time.

- Middle Basin - employee slid on ice while driving county vehicle. No lost time.
- Line Cleaning - employee opening frozen manhole - strained left elbow. **Time lost.**

### Discussion for March Safety Committee Meeting

- Election of officers
- By-laws reviewed
- Accident reviews

### Next Meeting

March 2, 2011, 9 a.m. in Nelson, MM10 Bldg, Rm 101

## Cross-functional team updates

### Communications

Jan. 19, 2011

The committee reviewed the first draft of the JCW Communications Plan.

**The purpose is to:** Develop, implement, and direct a communications plan that incorporates the Vision, Mission, and Core Values of Johnson County Wastewater, as well as those of Johnson County Government.

**The desired outcomes of the plan are:** The education of JCW's internal and external customers and governing board, ultimately garnering their understanding, trust, and support with regard to issues facing JCW.

**The strategy is:** To develop a plan that ensures a consistent message(s) about JCW is delivered to the targeted audience(s) in order to achieve the desired outcomes.

**Components of the plan include:** Purpose, Guiding Principles, Desired Outcomes, Current Attitudes, Strategy, Planning, Issue Assessment, Significant Issue Analysis, Plan Outline, and Media Relations Guidelines.

The committee suggested several changes to be made prior to finalization.

### Engineering Policies and Standards

Jan. 26, 2011

**Service Line Length** – The consultant committee reviewed an updated version of the service line standards - response was positive. A Briefing Sheet and Resolution has been developed for BOCC approval of these revised standards.



During recent confined spaces training, **Frank Manners**, training & safety coordinator, (left) commented as **Steve Drabant**, cleaning crew leader, (center) assisted by **Zach Hahne**, grounds crew member, (right) demonstrates the proper way to don the safety harness which is worn by JCW workers who venture into the underground world of the sanitary sewers via the manholes.

## Tour of JCW's SharePoint site

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If you haven't looked closely, there are other helpful "tools" in this quadrant of the opening page. I've used all of them, but the link to all the [other county websites](#) comes in handy for quickly finding that one particular department I'm interested in. I find that this one page makes it much easier to locate a specific department of the county than it is on the county's own main home page. What do you think?

Did you attend our Employee Recognition event? Whether you did or not, the slide show of the event is worth a few minutes of your time. It's located appropriately enough in the [Employee Recognition](#) area in the lower right hand corner. See for yourself if **Rob Kimmons** was surprised by his unexpected honor.

Also on the Employee Recognition page is a description of **Jimmie Hunsucker** becoming the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter employee. The article reveals we have much still to learn and benefit from those who have been with wastewater for more than just a couple of years. Right, Jimmie?



Remember I said that the site offers an opportunity for interaction? Specifically, the [Employee Lounge](#) area needs your input! Announce a special event in your corner of JCW. Announcements can cover a wide range of activities. For example, share news about a wonderful restaurant you discovered that colleagues might consider, tell about a class you took which can help JCW employees either on the job or after hours, or perhaps you want to notify us of a charity event in which you are participating.



If you are inclined to plan ahead or gather second opinions on a topic, try the [Discussion Board](#) that is also located in the lounge area. It's easy to use. Click on "New" and then click on "Create a discussion;" told you it was simple!

Yep, the [lounge area](#) has lots of possibilities. Listed in the right hand column are calendars, sign-ups, county-wide activities, plus more options, as well.

An advantage of digging further into our intranet is the ability to view some online video footage. Yep, it's there under [JCW News](#), a link to "Channel 5 high-lights MB projects." Keep an eye on one more link that leads to explaining JCW's green effort to produce our own electricity at Middle Basin.



Have questions? Well then, last but not least is the [Help](#) section. For example, do you want to increase your online collaboration skills? Look here first for a complete listing of support info customized for JCW staff.

And if you have other questions such as needing help with enhancing a graphic or photo to post or perhaps getting more technical support using SharePoint, please contact **Lori Sand**, me, or any of my JCW IT section colleagues and we will find a solution.

A couple of things to note, however. Because this is an internal share net site, access to it from the outside is not available, which means you have to do all your SharePoint surfing from your county computer. And if you do post anything on the site, your name will appear with the posting.

See you in the lounge!

## GKCFPC conducts regional food-system survey

Continued from Page 1

The Food Policy Coalition is made up of individuals, organizations, businesses and governments committed to ensuring that healthy, sustainable and affordable food is available locally. Its issue areas include:

- **Access:** Increasing the availability and affordability of healthy, safe and local food to all segments of the population in Greater Kansas City, and raising the capacity of residents to make healthy food choices.
- **Food production:** Increasing the volume of foods that are produced within 100 miles of Kansas City, and increasing the purchase of those foods by consumers.
- **Institutions:** Increasing purchases of local, sustainable food products by institutions such as hospitals, colleges, corporate cafeterias and restaurants
- **Schools:** Increasing consumption of nutritious, local foods in pre-K–12 school settings.

To learn more about GKCFPC, please call 816-523-5353 or visit [www.kcfoodpolicy.org](http://www.kcfoodpolicy.org).

## Cross-functional team updates

Continued from Page 4

**Product Evaluation Committees (PEC)** - It was suggested this be outsourced to consultants, similar to the spec update. It was also suggested the consultant sit in on the PEC. The consultant would also help finalize procedures. Funding would most likely come from the multiple projects briefing sheets to be done later this spring.

**Aaron Witt** volunteered to work with **Jennifer Harder** to review the draft PEC procedures and other activities to help define the consultant's scope of services.

**Best Management Practices (BMP) Required by Cities** – GBA submitted a draft report last month. The main issue discussed was the “where feasible” language in situations where the sewer or service lines are under a BMP. Aaron, **Darrell Thornbrugh**, and Jennifer will look at these issues in more detail, considering asset management principles, and recommend changes to the team.

### Succession Planning

The launch of the Succession Planning program is targeted at training for those employees who are interested in assistant direct, superintendent, and assistant superintendent positions. The first group of employees in the Succession Planning program have begun taking classes.

A meeting of the program participants and the Succession Planning Cross-Functional Team was scheduled for Feb. 15 in order to gather feedback about the program, including the course content, the value of the information, and any changes the participants believe would strengthen the program.

From Hannes Zacharias, county manager:

## Let the fun and games begin!

Have you considered joining the 2011 Kansas City Corporate Challenge (KCCC)? Johnson County Government is among 140 local employers whose employees compete and showcase their fitness and athletic skills and have some fun along the way!

Last year, 240 county employees registered and/or competed in the 2010 Games. The partnership with the Johnson County Park & Recreation District for one united team will be continued. It would be great to increase the county's 2011 participation numbers

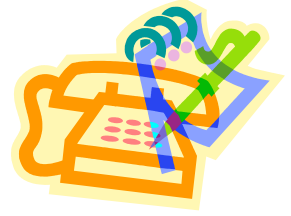
The county's Wellness Committee offers this program as a culmination of employee participation in the many nutrition and fitness programs available through the *Your Wellness Matters* program. The KCCC offers a unique assortment of competitive events, ranging from basketball and softball to pool and darts, structured for employees with varying degrees of skill and athleticism. For a complete listing of KCCC events and event coordinator responsibilities, go to the Wellness U website and access information under the [KC Corporate Challenge](#) tab.

In order to be considered a successful campaign for Johnson County, all employees are encouraged to participate as an event coordinator, competitor and/or volunteer, since many of each are needed and required.

I urge you to consider a role in this community-oriented program, and show the metro area what Johnson County employees can do!

## End voice mail tag

Losing time with telephone tag? Frustrated that people aren't returning your calls? Try leaving voice mail messages in three parts: your contact information, the content message, and the requested information.



Give your contact information at the beginning and repeat it at the end because many people won't bother to replay a message, particularly a long one, to get your phone number or e-mail address. They'll simply wait for you to call back.

Organize what you want to say before you call. Be ready to enumerate. For example, you're calling Bob about his report. After giving your contact information, you say, "I've looked at your report and I have three questions."

That tells Bob how long the message will be, makes it easier for him to take notes and organize his reply. You increase your odds of being called back and of getting what you need.

Here are some other pointers:

- Take your time with voice mail. Don't rush. No one is timing you.
- Speak clearly.
- Spell out your name. S l o w l y.
- Give your phone number s l o w l y.
- Repeat it. S l o w l y.
- Leave a complete message, no clues or hints.

# Congratulations to Rob Kimmons!



## JCW's 2010 Special Thanks And Recognition Spotlight STARS Employee of the Year



**Rob Kimmons**, line cleaning crew leader, was surprised by **Bernice Duletski**, deputy county manager, and **John O'Neil**, JCW's general manager, during the department's annual employee recognition event, with the news that he had been selected as JCW's 2010 Employee of the Year.

The rain event of June 14, 2010, holds a special meaning for JCW employees. In some parts of the county, flooding rivaled the infamous storm in October 2006.

Unfortunately, many JCW customers experienced not only flooding from storm sewer overflows, but sanitary sewer backup problems as well. The phones began ringing shortly after midnight early that morning, which signaled a scramble of employees answering the anguished calls for the next 24 hours.

**Rob Kimmons**, line cleaning crew leader, was tapped to work with a private insurance adjustor who was under contract with Johnson County Risk Management. Their difficult assignment was to work with distraught homeowners and determine, if possible, whether damage residents sustained to their homes that weekend was actually caused by JCW sanitary sewers as they claimed, or if it was the fault of storm runoff and/or leaky basements, foundations and improperly installed drains.

In a very stressful situation, Rob stepped up to the plate and exhibited every one of the department's Core Values.

## *March Celebrations*

### Wastewater Anniversaries

3/22/1982	29	<b>Mary Pegg</b> treatment superintendent
3/15/1982	29	<b>Scott Jacobs</b> treatment superintendent
3/8/1982	29	<b>Eddie Andrews</b> treatment crew leader
3/16/1987	24	<b>Gary Hamblin</b> sewer inspector
3/28/1988	23	<b>Howard Stanley</b> treatment crew leader
3/6/1989	22	<b>Kelly Krieger</b> treatment crew member
3/19/1990	21	<b>Kimberly Wasko</b> executive assistant
3/7/1994	17	<b>James Bills</b> aims coordinator
3/11/1996	15	<b>Edward Thomas</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
3/31/2003	8	<b>Tonya Nibarger</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
3/21/2005	6	<b>Todd Rogers</b> senior engineering technician
3/7/2007	4	<b>Zachary Millbern</b> permit group supervisor
3/24/2008	3	<b>Sean Kelley</b> equipment operator
3/10/2008	3	<b>Johnny Whitesell</b> construction crew member
3/17/2008	3	<b>Timothy Reeves</b> engineering technician

### Birthdays

<b>Rosemary Surber</b> permits technician	1
<b>Fred Preusch</b> assistant superintendent collections	3
<b>Kathleen Wingfield</b> permits technician	4
<b>James McQueen</b> financial manager	7
<b>Lynn Wilson</b> treatment crew member	10
<b>Robert Glover</b> treatment crew member	12
<b>Joseph Greer</b> treatment crew leader	12
<b>Patrick Gardner</b> treatment crew member	13
<b>David Noyes</b> pumps crew leader	17
<b>Sean Kelley</b> equipment operator	20
<b>Gordon Rames</b> development engineer	23
<b>Clifton Bencke</b> applications software tech	24
<b>Linsey Brashears</b> treatment crew member	26
<b>Joseph Williams</b> treatment crew member	28
<b>Clinton Fischer</b> line construction crew leader	29