

# THE PIPELINE



A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER



Protecting our environment ♦ Serving our customers ♦ Enhancing our communities

## VISA not an option at JoCo Office of Motor Vehicles

Johnson County Motor Vehicle Offices no longer accept VISA cards for in-office transactions. The offices do accept MasterCard and Discover.

Johnson County Motor Vehicle was approved for the VISA Tax Payment Program in March 2010, and began accepting VISA cards. Under this program, various types of tax payments could be processed in a convenience fee environment. These included income, business, sales, real estate, and other property taxes.

In processing a motor vehicle transaction, the Motor Vehicle Office collects sales tax and personal property tax on behalf of the state, county and various other taxing authorities. VISA revised its interpretation of the program rules and does not consider personal property tax collected on vehicles as "other" property taxes.

Johnson County Motor Vehicle also accepts cash, personal checks, money orders, and cashier's checks in its two offices located at 782 N. Ridgeview Road, Olathe, and at 6000 Lamar Avenue, Mission.

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## Johnson County residents weigh in on community survey regarding importance and satisfaction

A survey of Johnson County citizens produced high marks for the county's quality of life and overall satisfaction with county government, but the satisfaction ratings for some specific county services have decreased.

Those were among the results in a 50-page report of the 2011 Community Survey shared in May with the Johnson County Board of Commissioners. The survey, totaling 25 questions on seven pages, involved a random sample of 3,000 Johnson County households. It was conducted in April and early May by ETC Institute of Olathe.

**Chris Tatham**, president and chief executive officer of ETC, said 1,237 completed surveys were used to tabulate the overall findings. He said the 2011 survey ratings were a mixed bag of satisfaction levels when compared to Community Surveys from 2005, 2007, and 2009 along with national trends.

The good news? Tatham explained that Johnson County continued to set the standards in planning growth, a rating of more than 30 percent above the national average; a place to work, 29 percent above the national average; and overall quality of county services, 28 percent above the national average.

In his presentation to the Board, Tatham said he has never seen a community's overall satisfaction, value for services, and leadership increased during a time that cut-backs have been implemented.

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## Slight mileage increase approved by BoCC

As approved by the Johnson County Board of Commissioners within the Allowable Expenses section of the County Travel Policy, county employees will follow the current rate authorized by the State of Kansas in regard to a privately-owned vehicle used for county business.

The Kansas Secretary of Administration has increased the private mileage reimbursement rate by one cent per mile to 51 cents per mile, beginning July 1.

Employees should continue to use 50 cents per mile through June 30 and begin using the new rate of 51 cents per mile for any travel on and after July 1.

The Oracle iExpense module will be updated to reflect the new mileage reimbursement rate when the correct travel dates are entered.

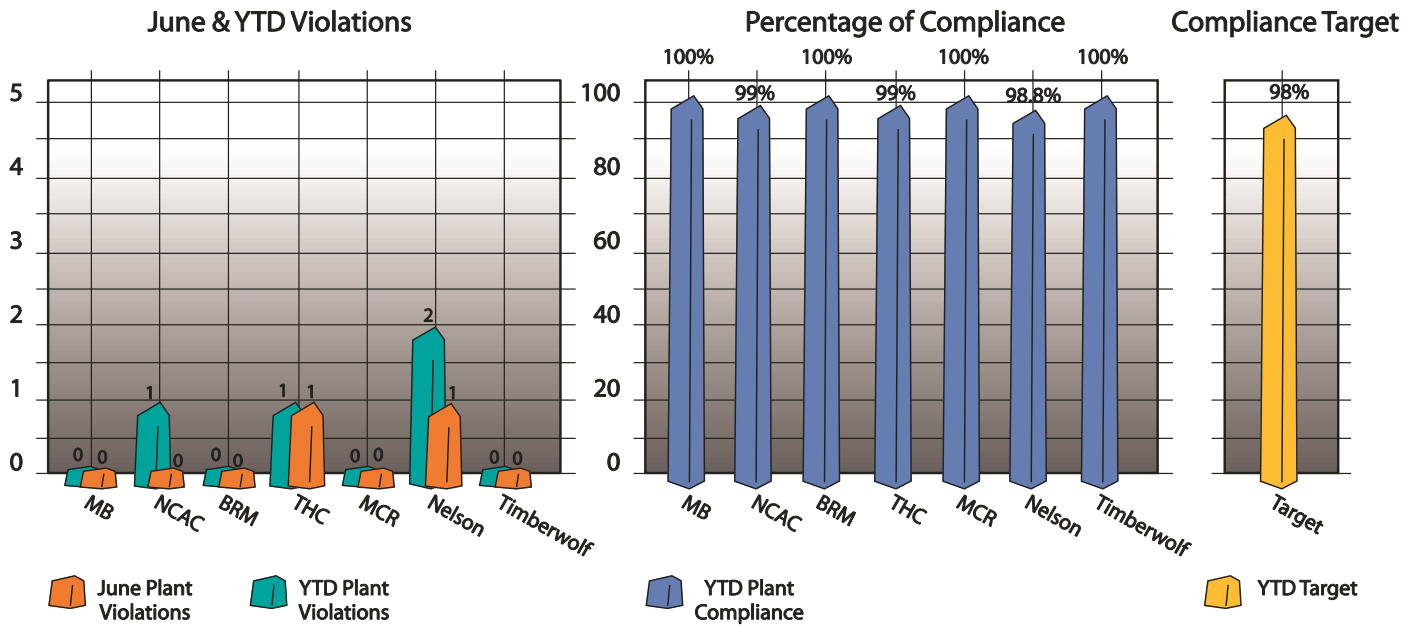
If you have any questions, please contact TFM-APAUDIT.

To view the complete informational circular, please select [one](#) of the [two](#) resource links that can be found on the JoCo Connect website.

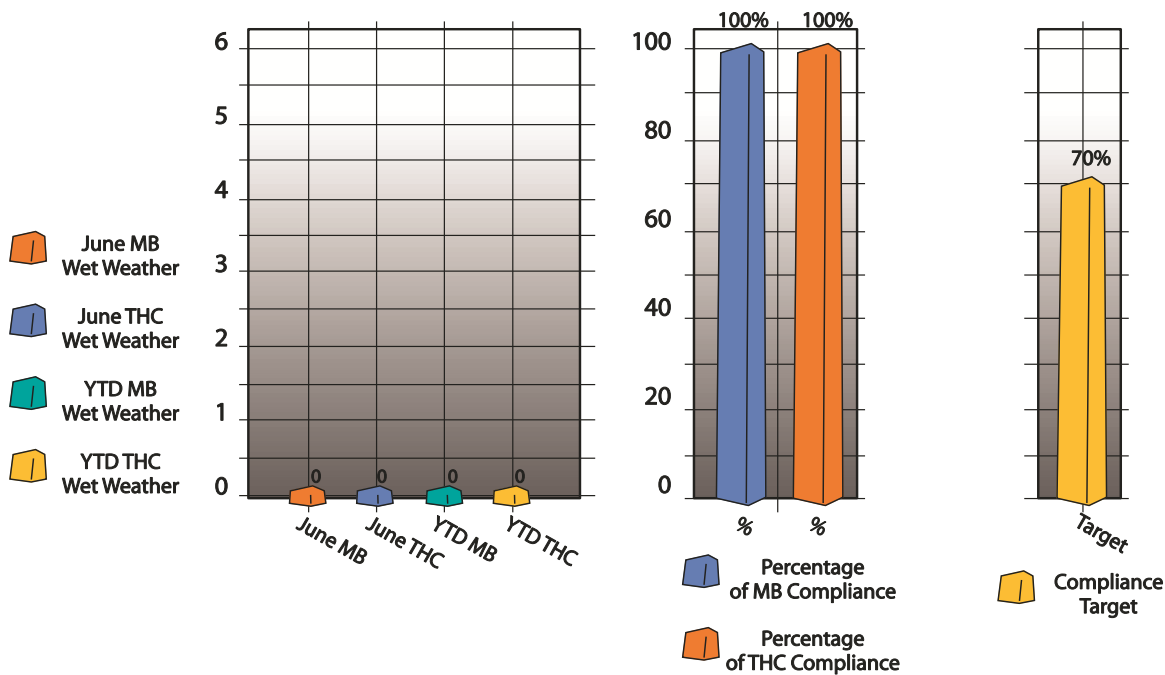
Levels of Service --

Plant violation statistics are above target rates at mid-year point

Individual Plant Violations



MB/THC Wet Weather



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.



**John O'Neil**, general manager of Johnson County Wastewater (JCW), was recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA).



NACWA represents the interests of more than 300 public agencies and organizations that have made the pursuit of scientifically based, technically sound and cost effective laws and regulations their objective. NACWA members serve the majority of the sewer population in the U.S. and collectively treat and reclaim more than 18 billion gallons of wastewater daily.

O'Neil has been with JCW since 1989, first as the Director of Operations and Maintenance and since February 2006 as Wastewater General Manager. As JCW's General Manager, O'Neil oversees all aspects of the wastewater utility, and is coordinating the building of strong bridges between the three department divisions to provide a unified level and quality of service to JCW customers.

O'Neil is actively involved in current water quality and affordability issues at a national level. "John brings a wealth of experience in the water pollution control field to contribute to the role of the Board of Directors of NACWA," said **David Williams**, NACWA's President.

"I consider NACWA's role as critical to achieving reasonable and affordable solutions to improving the water quality of our nation's waters," O'Neil said, "and I'm excited to become part of that solution."

Congratulations, John!

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### VISA not an option at JoCo Office of Motor Vehicles

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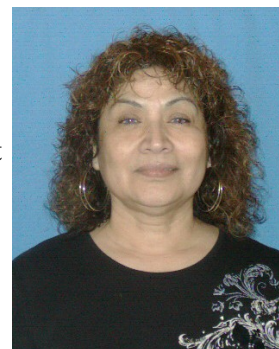
The State of Kansas Web Tags system makes it convenient to renew a vehicle registration online using a VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card and by eCheck at [treasurer.jocogov.org](http://treasurer.jocogov.org), [www.kswebtags.org](http://www.kswebtags.org) or over the phone at 1-866-4KS-TAGS (1-866-457-8247).



### Meet **Kathe Wingfield**

Permits Technician

Worked for JCW four years on Oct. 1



- ★ My favorite childhood memory is playing hopscotch. We would make a giant size hopscotch in the yard at home and my dad would always come out and play with us.
- ★ My favorite food - I love pizza. Almost any kind of pizza and at anytime of day or night. I always eat more than I should!
- ★ My dream vacation destination - I would love to go to the northeastern states. Those are about the only states we have not been to (and Hawaii). I hear Maine is beautiful in autumn.
- ★ I would say that sewing is my talent. It is something I truly enjoy. My grandsons call on me to do alterations for them and my great granddaughters always have ideas for costumes they would love to have. I started sewing when I was in grade school, kind of taught myself.
- ★ Lessons I have taken - once a long, long time ago I took piano lessons. We purchased a piano for our daughter, Kimberly, for her birthday and the lessons were free. Our granddaughter took piano lessons when she was small and played the same piano. She wants her girls to play the keyboard.
- ★ Afraid of - I would say that I do not like snakes and I do not like spiders.
- ★ I spend too much on the grandkids and the great granddaughters! I tell them I just don't have enough money to spend on them.
- ★ Of the jobs I've had, I most enjoyed working as a records clerk for Security Land Title. I went to the courthouse and Administration Building on a daily basis and got to know and work with many different people while obtaining the information I needed for my job. It was fun meeting so many different people, not just those working in the county and state offices, but people doing the same type of work as I did.
- ★ I enjoy - sewing, of course. I also enjoy working crossword puzzles and just recently got hooked on cryptograms.

# Johnson County authorizes almost \$32 million to build tunnel to Kansas River

Johnson County is going to a great depth to carry millions of gallons of treated wastewater from the Mill Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Shawnee to empty into the Kansas River.

On Thursday, July 14, the Johnson County Board of Commissioners authorized construction of an underground effluent pipe between the treatment plant at 20001 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street, just south of the river, to a discharge point on the river located just downstream of the raw water intake site of Water District No. 1. The intake is just east of I-435. The treatment plant is about 1.3 miles west of I-435.

The total authorization for the Mill Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Capacity Improvements was increased by \$37,830,000 to \$41.6 million by the Board.

In a related action, the Board approved a contract, totaling \$31,979,450, with S.J. Louis Construction of Texas to construct the effluent tunnel. The Texas firm submitted the lowest bid among six bidders. The other bids ranged from \$32 to almost \$39.9 million.

The project will span approximately 9,800 feet, almost two miles, with a concrete pipe with a 96-inch-diameter. The tunnel will be buried deep –approximately 100 to 110 feet - and require boring under portions of Mill Creek, I-435, Wilder Road, Holliday Drive, and railroad tracks.

Treated plant effluent will flow by gravity through the tunnel to the river. Plant effluent currently is pumped to the same discharge location, but the pumping station does not have the capacity to pump extreme wet weather flows. The pumping station will be taken out of service after completion of the project, which includes construction of new plant piping to convey treated wastewater from the plant's final stage lagoon to the tunnel.

The tunnel will eliminate the risk of untreated sewage flows into nearby Mill Creek and the Kansas River in time of heavy rains since it is underground, so groundwater can't seep in and treated wastewater can't seep out.

"What the tunnel does do is reduce our carbon footprint and operating costs since we will not need electricity to pump the effluent as we do now," **John O'Neil**, general manager for Johnson County Wastewater, said. He estimated the project, once completed, will save more than \$200,000 annually in moving ultimate future flows.

Construction of the tunnel is expected to begin by late summer with completion by late 2013.



The tunnel project is shown as the red line from the treatment plant and the water intake site of Water District No. 1.

It is the second tunnel project for Johnson County Wastewater in two years. In 2009, the Board of County Commissioners authorized a 3,300-linear-foot tunneling project under the Overland Park Arboretum near Antioch Road and 179<sup>th</sup> Street. The tunnel, with 60-inch piping and depths of up to 74 feet, preserved hundreds of trees and parkland at the arboretum that would have been removed if open-cut trenching had been used in the project.

The tunnel, costing \$5.9 million, was completed in mid-April 2010.

The project was part of construction of Blue River 26 gravity sewers, costing \$18 million and totaling more than 37,000 linear feet, that will open up an area of approximately 25 square miles for development in southern Johnson County.

## Cross-functional team update

### IT/IS

The IT group has been providing assistance to staff with the Outlook E-Mail transition to Mimosa, preparing the Continuity of Operations Plan (CCP), including staging back-up equipment, reviewing disaster recovery options for certain specific areas, and providing the usual excellent customer service.

The two septic sites at Mill Creek and Blue River were successfully attached to the JOCO network.

The SCADA project is moving forward, and two IT staff are actively participating as part of the project team.

The group is also researching prices and replacement options for our aging PC inventory, including testing a build-from-parts desktop kit that is much more robust than our typical off-the-shelf products and cost significantly less.

### Rate Structure

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

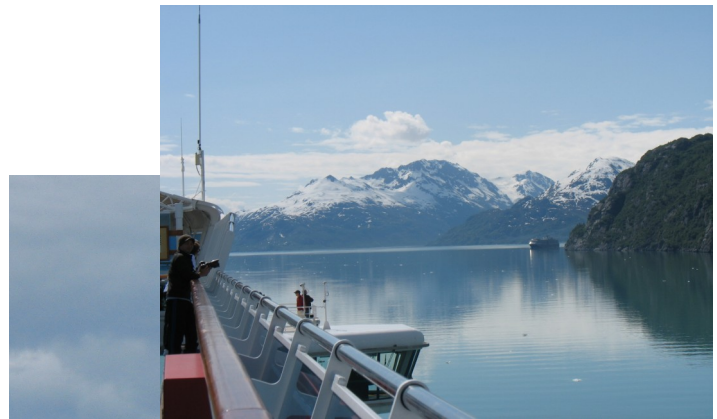
The first was based on the County Manager's Proposed Budget and indicated a proposed user charge increase of \$2.17 per month for a median user, and EDU increase of \$0.33 per month, and a combined increase to the median user of \$2.50 per month.

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 of Jan. 1, 2011, 6.5 positions were eliminated 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.

## What did YOU do on your summer vacation?



Send your vacation shots to [lori.sand@jcw.org](mailto:lori.sand@jcw.org) if you wish to share them in *The Pipeline*.

**Lori Sand**, JCW's director of communication, enjoyed an Alaskan cruise with some of her family in mid-June.

"The breathtaking views of complete wilderness, mountains, glaciers, and whale sightings made the trip one that I will never forget!"



## Shout Outs

Continued from Page 3

**Rosann Lucas's** granddaughter, **Taylor Lucas**, was recently recognized as her school's overall Young Author winner. Rosann is JCW's management analyst.

Taylor's book, titled *The Dragon and the Hunters*, advanced to the statewide writing competition during the 37th Annual Young Author's Conference at Illinois State University.



Taylor recently completed second grade at Mackeben Elementary in Algonquin, Ill. She is the daughter of Rosann's son and daughter-in-law, **Kevin and Nicolle Lucas**.

## JoCo artists urged to enter juried exhibit by August 4

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District has issued a call for entries for the Art Fest 2011 exhibit to be displayed at the Ernie Miller Nature Center in Olathe from Oct. 30 to Nov. 20. The entry deadline for the annual exhibition is Aug. 4.

Art Fest is open to artists currently residing in Johnson County who are 21 years of age or older. The exhibit, sponsored in part by Johnston, Ballweg & Modrein, LC, is limited to original, wall-mounted art executed within the past two years. Last year's Art Fest attracted 246 entries and 40 artists were exhibited.

For a single entry fee of \$25, artists may submit up to three pieces of art for consideration. Only one piece per artist may be selected for the exhibition. Entry information and forms are available at the district's website at [www.jcprd.com/special\\_events/artfest.cfm](http://www.jcprd.com/special_events/artfest.cfm) or by calling 913-894-3324.

Exhibiting artists will be competing for more than \$4,000 in prizes and awards. There will be \$1,000, \$750, and \$500 cash prizes awarded, and at least \$2,000 in purchase awards for art placed on permanent display in Park and Recreation District facilities.

## Donation Shopping List

Feed the Need is collecting school supplies for needy families in our community. The next time you are out shopping, please pick up a few extra things to donate to the cause.



Suggested items include:

*College-rule notebook paper*

*Wide-rule notebook paper*

*3" x 5" note cards (lined)*

*Watercolors (8 count)*

*Markers*

*Dry erase markers*

*Colored pencils*

*Bottles of white glue – 8 oz.*

*Scissors*

*Pocket folders*

*Dividers*

*Pencil boxes*

*Erasers*

*Spiral notebooks – 80 sheets*

*Zipper pencil bags*

*Boxes of tissues*

*Hand sanitizer*

*Backpacks*

Place these items in your building's usual Feed the Need Donation Collection box – they should be marked now with the school supply list – by Aug. 1. **Donations will be collected by noon on Aug. 1 with delivery to the multi-service centers on Aug. 2.**

*Thank you so much for your generosity – there are many in our community who need our help.*

## County residents weigh in on community survey regarding importance and satisfaction

*Continued from Page 1*

“This shows that the citizens often understand the need to make tough budget decisions and feel the county’s leadership has and is making the right choices,” he said.

The mixed news? Overall satisfaction with county services has stayed about the same, but satisfaction ratings for many specific services, including libraries, parks, courts, public safety, jails, human services, and elections, have decreased. Most of the declines, however, were only by a few percentage points from past levels.

“Decreased ratings for specific services mirror national trends,” Tatham said. “Increased satisfaction ratings for leadership and value of taxes have offset decreased ratings in many areas.”

The county’s quality of life, overall image, and quality of public safety continued to score in the 90-plus percentage range in citizens’ approval rating, compared to a national quality of life level of 80 percent, overall image rating of 71 percent, and public safety image of 80 percent. Rates for large communities were lower: quality of life, 73 percent; overall image, 65 percent; and public safety, 75 percent.

The quality of Johnson County’s services was placed at 85 percent, compared to a national average of 57 percent and large communities rating of 47 percent.

The value for the county’s tax dollars was rated at 63 percent. The national value of tax dollars was 45 percent. The tax value in large communities was only 38 percent.

“We appreciate the time and candid opinions of our citizens in responding to this survey. Our County Government has been, and will continue, working with citizens to address our community needs, prioritize our goals, and meet our citizen expectations,” said **Ed Eilert**, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

Results specific to Johnson County Wastewater were:

- Importance – Satisfaction Rating (IS). JCW was listed among services with Medium Priority (IS < .10)
- JCW’s 2011 Importance-Satisfaction Rating was 0.0574 and ranked 12th
- JCW was ranked 13<sup>th</sup> among Most Important County Services
- County services that are most important to provide: 14% of respondents selected Wastewater services as one of their top four choices
- Overall satisfaction with County Services:
  - 59% of respondents rated Wastewater services as a 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale where 5 was Very Satisfied and 1 was Very Dissatisfied.
  - JCW was below the U.S. rating of 69% and large communities rating of 70%.
  - In 2009, JCW’s satisfaction rating was 66%.
  - JCW’s satisfaction rating was: 9% Very Satisfied, 50% Satisfied, 36% Neutral, 5% Dissatisfied.
  - Ranked sixth in Satisfaction.
- 73% of respondents said they were either Very Familiar or Somewhat Familiar with JCW.
- Infrastructure was ranked third at 35% when residents were asked to name the top five items they would be most willing to pay for to avoid reductions in service or decreased quality.
- Again, Infrastructure ranked third at 28% when residents were asked to name the top five items they would be most willing to pay for to expand or improve quality.
- When asked which of the top five items should be their city’s top strategic priorities over the next 10 to 20 years to enhance the quality of life in Johnson County, residents ranked Infrastructure as fourth at 55%.
- On a 5 point scale, residents were asked to rate the importance of various items in the perception of the overall quality of life in Johnson County with 5 being Very Important and 1 being Not Important. Infrastructure ratings were: 55% Very Important, 40% Important, 4% Somewhat Important, and 1% Not Important.

“I believe that the slight drop in satisfaction levels is due to the mid-June rain event we had last year that resulted in numerous basement floods. These challenges will be addressed by our I/I Pilot Project,” said **John O’Neil**, JCW’s general manager.

## August Celebrations

### Wastewater Anniversaries

8/7/1978	33	<b>Curtis Norris</b> treatment superintendent
8/25/1986	25	<b>James Cooper</b> pumps crew leader
8/20/1990	21	<b>Kenneth Standiford</b> treatment crew member
8/5/1991	20	<b>R. Wayne Hunley</b> truck driver
8/15/1994	17	<b>Harry Shultz</b> treatment crew leader
8/25/1997	14	<b>Charles Mathis</b> construction grounds crew member
8/10/1998	13	<b>Charles McAllister</b> engineering technician
8/16/1999	12	<b>Kevin Boggs</b> treatment crew member
8/14/2000	11	<b>Clinton Fischer</b> line construction crew leader
8/5/2002	9	<b>Daniel Ott</b> collections system engineer
8/25/2003	8	<b>Logan Meacham</b> cleaning/inspection crew member
8/28/2006	5	<b>Clifton Bencke</b> applications software technician
8/14/2006	5	<b>Samuel Kingsolver</b> treatment crew leader
8/18/2008	3	<b>Raymond Herndon</b> construction crew member

### Birthdays

<b>Arthur Famuliner</b> cleaning/inspection crew member	1
<b>Karen Herrington</b> executive assistant	1
<b>Stephen Drabant</b> cleaning crew leader	4
<b>Jonathon Erb</b> equipment operator	5
<b>Timothy Engbroten</b> treatment crew member	5
<b>Jimmie Hunsucker</b> engineer specialist	7
<b>Paul Soetaert</b> treatment crew leader	8
<b>Elizabeth Brandel</b> director of Business Operations & Planning	9
<b>Jim Greenlee</b> pumps crew leader	10
<b>Janet Jacobs</b> GIS technician	11
<b>Ronald Edwards</b> cleaning/inspection crew member	19
<b>Charles Hall</b> treatment assistant superintendent	23
<b>Clint McCammon</b> treatment crew member	27
<b>James Rose</b> treatment crew member	27
<b>Jason Martin</b> cleaning/inspection crew member	30
<b>Curtis Norris</b> treatment superintendent	31
<b>Susan Pekarek</b> wastewater treatment project engineer	31

