

THE PIPELINE

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER



Volume 7, Issue 9

September 2011

Protecting our environment ♦ Serving our customers ♦ Enhancing our communities

You can give back this weekend!

Employees are encouraged to join in a one-time-only, special event. This is an opportunity to volunteer with the national environmental group, *Pick Up America*.

This group of dedicated earth stewards is literally walking across America from east coast to west coast, picking up trash and spreading the message of zero waste, climate protection and sustainability.



Pick Up America is the nation's first coast-to-coast roadside litter cleanup.

The team is on a three year journey to clean thousands of miles of road and encourage a transition toward zero waste all along the way.

Find out more at www.pickupamerica.org.

The event is Saturday, Sept. 24 from 8 a.m. – noon. The kickoff event will begin at Shawnee Mission Park, 7900 Renner Rd., shelter #12.

NACWA Peak Performance Awards –

A point of pride for JCW



Receiving the awards at a recent Board meeting were: (from left – front) **Steve Laws, Keith Hall, Mary Pegg, Tim O'Donnell**, with **Chairman Eilert**. (from left – back) **Scott Jacobs, Samuel Kingsolver, Kurt Winters, and Kenny Kellison**

Johnson County Wastewater recently received six Peak Performance awards presented by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). The Peak Performance Awards program recognizes public wastewater treatment facilities for their outstanding compliance records in the 2010 calendar year.

JCW received one Platinum Peak Performance Award to honor treatment works that have completed five years of complete and consistent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance.

The Platinum Award recipient is JCW's Blue River Main Plant at 2523 W. 151st Street in Overland Park.

"The plant team has done a wonderful job for JCW and this award is richly deserved," said **John O'Neil**, general manager. "Congratulations!"

Additionally, three other JCW treatment facilities were awarded the Gold Peak Performance Award which honors treatment works that have achieved 100 percent compliance with the NPDES permit for an entire calendar year. Two other treatment facilities received Silver Peak Performance Awards which recognizes facilities that have received no more than five NPDES permit violations per calendar year.

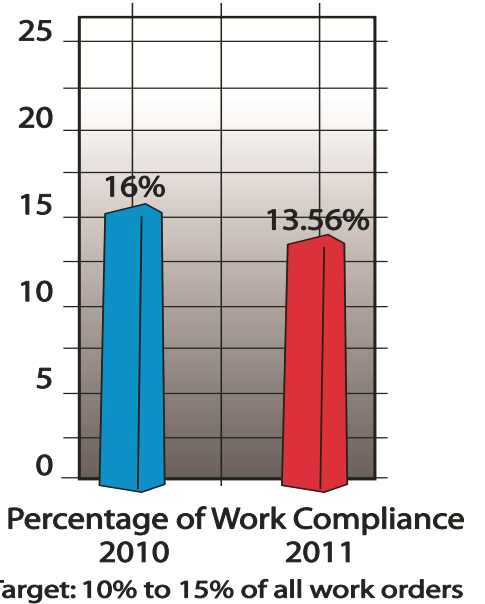
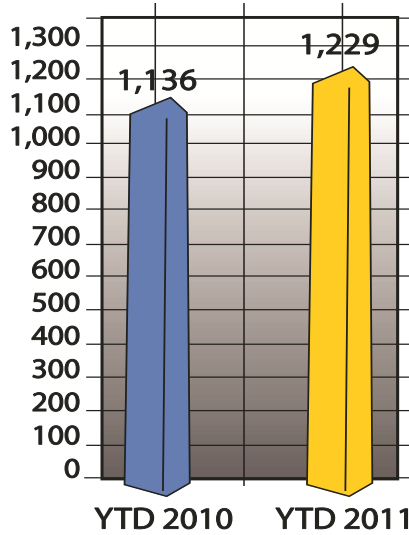
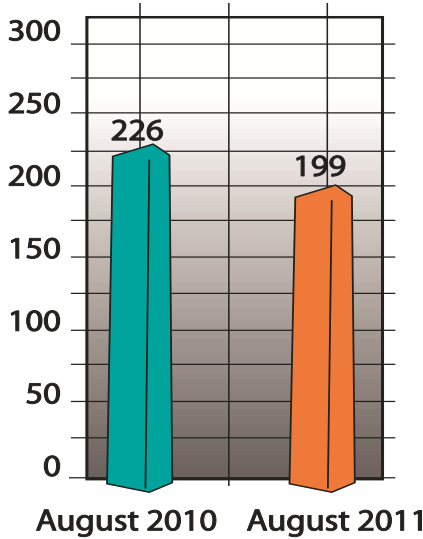
Gold Peak Performance Award recipients:

- Mill Creek Regional
- Myron K. Nelson
- New Century AirCenter

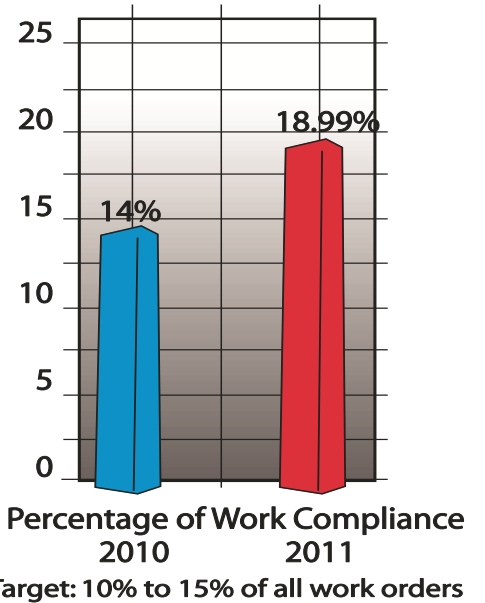
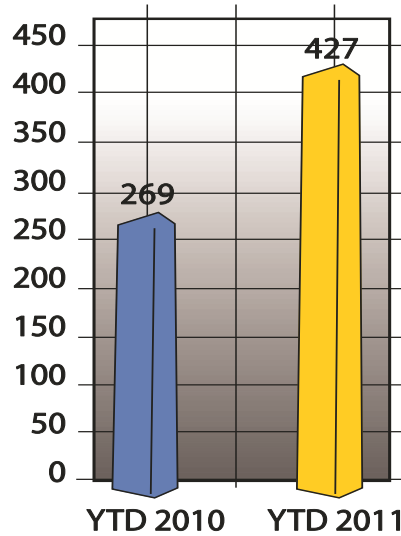
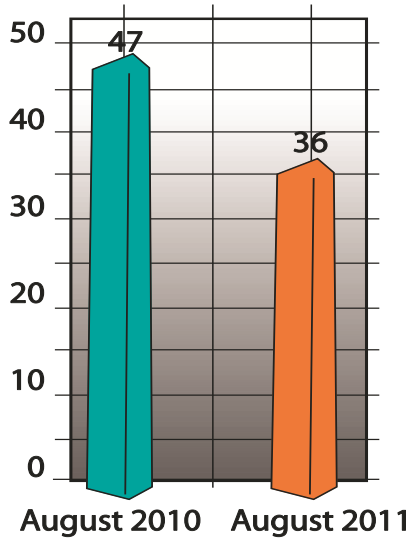
YTD totals ahead of 2010 in treatment & collections

Corrective Work Orders Issued

Treatment



Collections



THE PIPELINE

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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.



Lori Sand, director of Communications, has been tapped serve as co-chair of the Kansas Water Environment Association’s Public Education and Communication Committee. She will serve with **Sheila Shockey**, president of Shockey Consulting Services, LLC.

Stacy Gallick, director of Asset Management, is enrolled in the Emerging Leaders Academy, offered by KU.

Participants gain knowledge and skills in leadership, organizational dynamics, teamwork, and career planning to help them identify and achieve their professional goals while increasing their effectiveness as public servants. Agencies gain a more prepared and engaged talent pool to draw from as they plan for the future.

Kudos to the following JCW staff who recently presented at Kansas Water Environment Association conference:

Stacy Gallick, director of Asset Management
Sharing Knowledge for Improved Efficiency and Reliability: Johnson County Wastewater’s Approach

Doug Nolkemper, Operations engineer and Dale Gabel,
CH2MHill

Start Up of FOG and Co-Digestion Facilities at Johnson County

Susan Pekarek, WW Treatment Project engineer and Pat Young, HDR

Generating Energy for Biogas at Johnson County Wastewater’s D.L. Smith Middle Basin Plant: Design and Implementative Challenges

Patrick Beane, Collections engineer – city project liaison and **Charles McAllister**, engineering technician
It Takes A Village To Construct A Project: Lessons Learned from the JCW Street-Storm Program



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Meet Heather Bolander

Customer Service representative
JCW employee for 7 years



- ★ Favorite childhood memory: Every year, on Christmas Eve, we would travel to visit my grandfather’s family in Ottawa, KS. On the way home, late at night, he would drive through the Plaza. It always felt magical.
- ★ Favorite food: Mexican
- ★ Dream vacation destination: Tropical island.
- ★ Claim to fame: I can burp on command.
- ★ Lessons I have taken: I have taken Kenpo Karate lessons (same as Elvis!) and bass guitar lessons.
- ★ My hero: My mom. As a single mom, she raised two kids and now she is raising her first grandchild (my nephew) as well.
- ★ My passion is: Helping others and recycling
- ★ Of the jobs I’ve held I most enjoyed being a supervisor at Golden Sky Systems/Pegasus. I met a few life-long friends there and getting free DirecTV wasn’t all that shabby either!
- ★ Activities or hobbies I enjoy: I love to read, I enjoy Pilates, and I also enjoy walking.
- ★ Something funny that happened to me: In 2009, we took a trip to Omaha to see the ‘O Royals’ play. While there we started chatting with the guy next to us and found that he is a huge Royals fan and was disappointed he couldn’t make it to KC for the jersey give away. We were at that game and Emma received a jersey that was waaaay too big for her and we took his name and address so we could ship it to him. A week later we were driving home from Rock Fest and a guy leans out his window to ask us how to find I-35 and it was the guy from the ‘O Royals’ game!!
- ★ My least favorite sound is the sound of my alarm clock—no explanation necessary, right? LOL
- ★ My favorite word is Hope. “When the world says, ‘Give up,’ Hope whispers, “Try it one more time.” -- Author Unknown
- ★ One thing about me that would be a surprise to most people: I haven’t had a Coke/Pepsi (or any caramelized carbonated beverage) in almost 12 years.
- ★ I am guilty of giving in to my sweet tooth way too often.



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Congratulations to **Lu Bronson**, JCW's new Commercial/Industrial Liaison coordinator for Customer Service/Relations. Lu brings to this position a wealth of knowledge from her previous career with the City of Kansas City MO water utility. Her expertise with water services (billing and irrigation) will take the position to a new level.



It doesn't pay to wait

The county is in its sixth year of encouraging employees (and spouses) to take the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) informative tool that assists employees with identification of potential and actual personal health risks.

By empowering employees with this confidential health information, the intended outcome is that employees address these health risks before they manifest into a serious medical problem. This will enable employees to remain healthier, experience lower medical costs and reduce work absences.

The county only receives aggregated HRA results, but uses this information to identify common health issues affecting county employees, and develops wellness programs to address them.

Below is a summary of JCW's participation for the 2011 HRA Campaign:

Dept.	Total Number of Employees in Department	Total No. Employees who took the HRA	Participation
JCW	191	50	26%

Although employees have until Nov. 1, 2011, to meet the four wellness requirements to avoid the nonparticipation fee, they are encouraged not to wait. The Wellness Committee has scheduled health screenings with computer kiosks accompanied by trained BCBSKC staff to assist employees in creating a BCBSKC personal account, taking the HRA, and self-reporting wellness activities under *Points to Blue*. These screenings end on Oct. 20, 2011.

At last check, the registration for the health screenings scheduled at the two plants was low. JCW staff may find additional information at this link:

<W:\JCWEnterprise\Working\Leadership Team-Open Access\2012 Wellness Initiative Implementation>

Safety Committee Report

New Business

- The Safety Fair has been cancelled for 2011. It will be rescheduled in 2012.
- First aid kits have all been inspected.
- Fall Protection is complete for the Dissolved Air Flo-tation at Blue River.
- New Gas Detector training will begin October 2011.
- Backing training will be conducted Nov. 16, 2011, at the airport for CDL drivers.

Accidents in August

- Vehicle backing
- Wasp sting
- Slip/fall

No time lost

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

Peek-a-boo! Let's play "Guess Who"



I spent the first two years of my life living in a house built by my grandparents on land they obtained during the Oklahoma land rush.

Send in YOUR baby picture along some interesting fact, even if it's just favorite toy, first word, etc. We'll publish them in *The Pipeline* and see how many correct guesses you get!

JCW employees win 5 Ton Award

Johnson County employees again rallied to help those in need in the 2011 Feed the Need campaign.

Cash and food totaling 184.66 tons was collected and distributed to 10 food pantries located throughout Johnson County. The cash disbursement to each pantry was \$8,982.62. JCW won a Five-Ton Award for 5.84 tons.

The department's FTN efforts were led by co-chairs **Marie Seibel** and **Lori Sand** and committee - **Tony Hall**, **Peggy Hiatt**, **Janet Jacobs**, and **Robert Koch**.

John Bartolac, director of Records and Tax Administration and **Nick Crossley**, former director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, co-chaired the 2011 campaign.

The "Feed the Need" annual drive began in 1987 when the District Attorney's Office began collecting non-perishable foods to help those in need in the metropolitan area. Through the efforts of the late Rick Beckwith, a Facilities employee, this drive gained attention with other county departments and a full-fledged campaign was born. Not only did numerous departments participate in the drive, but friendly competition developed that continues today.

According to Bartolac, employee participation was outstanding this year, given the current economy. Employees sponsored and participated in a variety of fundraising events, which included bake sales, luncheons, book sales, purse sales, a 5K run, bowling events, golf tournaments, and many more. The campaign's Event Day kickoff occurred June 7 with a theme of "Fun in the Sun for Feed the Need."

Bartolac thanked the Board of County Commissioners and county managers for their support and cooperation in the drive, and added a special thanks to the department Feed the Need representatives for their commitment and personal commitment which impacted the success of the campaign.

The campaign supported 10 food pantries, including:

- Blue Valley Multi-Service Center
- Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas
- De Soto Multi-Service Center
- First Christian Church, Olathe
- Gardner Multi-Service Center
- North Central Multi-Service Center
- Roeland Park Multi-Service Center
- Salvation Army
- Shawnee Community Services
- Spring Hill Multi-Service Center

Bartolac also announced that county employees had participated in another collection drive, this time for school supplies. More than 700 pounds of school supplies were also distributed to the pantries for the school year.

Looking for a way to give back?

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Working in teams, the plan is to clean a 45 mile stretch of the community from Roeland Park, KS across Johnson County and all the way to Lawrence. Cleaning will be along city roads only.

Consider grabbing a team of friends and registering your team to help Pick Up America!

Teams will each be assigned a section of the route and given the necessary supplies to be honorary "Pick Up Artists" for the day. The event will culminate back at Shawnee Mission Park for a group photo, art project and celebration.

Employees are also urged to help promote this event by sharing it with community groups, church groups, friends and family!

More details about how to register a team or for event details are at www.BRWA.net

Blue River Watershed Association is a co-sponsor of this event.

The event is also associated with 350.org's Moving Planet day of action - a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis. Find out more at www.moving-planet.org/

It is free to participate, but teams are encouraged to use the walk as an opportunity to fundraise for environmental non-profits including Pick Up America, Blue River Watershed Association and Cans for Community. There will be prizes and recognition for teams who choose to raise money.



A point of pride for JCW

Continued from Page 1

Silver Peak Performance Award recipients:

- Douglas L. Smith Middle Basin
- Tomahawk Creek

"The staff at these facilities has worked hard to earn these awards which reflect their commitment to protect the water quality in our local waters," O'Neil said.

"Supporting them in their efforts are engineers, technicians, and Environmental laboratory personnel."



Johnson County's plan for pets during a disaster

If you are a pet owner, you may be glad to know that a Johnson County Animal Response Team (JoCART) has formed to address this need. JoCART is a volunteer-based organization that coordinates emergency animal sheltering and other animal welfare services in the event of a disaster that results in residents being evacuated from their homes.

Leaders from JoCART have worked directly with the Johnson County Emergency Management and Homeland Security, local animal control departments, veterinary workers, area non-profit animal welfare organizations and volunteer citizens, to put together a plan for the needs of domestic pets in the event of a large-scale emergency situation that includes evacuation of residents to emergency shelters.

According to **Dan Robeson**, assistant director of Planning for Johnson County Emergency Management, "Animal welfare is an important component in the County's Emergency Operations Plan (CEOP) that defines the policies, coordination, and roles and responsibilities required to meet the needs generated by a disaster in Johnson County."

Pet owners, like other residents, may be forced to evacuate and should have a plan to take their pets or have a viable sheltering option. JoCART's mission includes educating the public and having plans in place that address the welfare of animals during an evacuation emergency. Additional information about JoCART is available online at <http://jocartks.org>.

Volunteers are needed to become part of the Johnson County Animal Response Team. Interested citizens can access volunteer applications and registration forms through the JoCART website or email jocartks@gmail.com for more information.

"We need the public to get involved and be part of the solution should a disaster hit Kansas City," says JoCART President, **Dr. JC Burcham, DVM**. "Community engagement in advance of serious incidents can make all the difference in how quickly and effectively we are able to respond to the needs of animals in a disaster. We are building a trained team of responders that will provide much value in the event of an emergency," states Burcham.



Don't let flu season sneak up on you—inoculate now!

The free county flu vaccination clinics have been scheduled and registrations are available. The FREE flu shots are available to the following COUNTY participants:

- All county employees. The employee does NOT need to be eligible for or enrolled in the health plan for the clinics.
- All employee dependents, including children and spouses. No other family members or relatives are eligible.
- Children must be under 26 years old and you provide financial support (different than health plan rules).

The available sites and times are listed under the registration link. To register, go to <https://events.jocogov.org/tfm/>.

Important Registration Rules:

- Detailed registration instructions are listed on the link. READ CAREFULLY.
- If you don't remember last year's Username and Password, there is a reset function by clicking on "Forgot Password," which allows you to reset username too.
- You can create a NEW username and password by clicking on "Click Here" to create a new account. Consider writing it down for future reference.
- EACH family member must have his/her OWN appointment. To accomplish this, you have to create a new username and password for **each**, but you can use your e-mail address to receive the appointment confirmation.
- Be careful entering your e-mail address. If you do not enter correctly, you will NOT receive a Confirmation E-Mail of your appointment.

Don't let flu season sneak up on you—inoculate now!

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When you receive your Confirmation e-mail, it is your responsibility to record your appointment date and time on your Outlook Calendar. If you make an appointment and your schedule changes, the courtesy of cancelling your appointment is appreciated. To cancel, enter the same registration link and access your “class schedule” through your account (a tab at the top of the webpage). There is a prompt to cancel classes.

When you receive your confirmation e-mail, there are two important links on it: Consent Form and Information Sheet. The Consent Form must be completed before receiving a flu shot and you can complete and print from the link or do it when attending the flu clinic.

The vaccine the county purchased contains the Thimerisol preservative so if you have an allergy to it, you should obtain a flu shot from your physician. In addition, Johnson County is not providing pneumococcal vaccinations, so these need to be obtained from your physician.

For **more details** of the flu vaccination program and coverage under the county's medical plans, go to <https://events.jocogov.org/tfm/>.

Hand sanitizer will be distributed. If you have questions, contact **Debbie Lage** at 715-8565 or TFM-Benefits at 715-0705.



Penny pinching can yield big savings

By Celeste Chaney

Operations supervisor, Customer Service

If you are in a financial situation that has you cutting back or if you just want to break old spending habits to start building some cushion in your wallet, resort back to the basic survival skills, but first you must be able to distinguish the difference between a **NEED** and a **WANT**.

- A **NEED** is a necessity, such as food, shelter, water, clothing, and basic hygiene products.
- A **WANT** is a desire, wish, or a craving.

We spend for three reasons: need, desire and emotion. Let's use the grocery store as an example. Many of us do not clip coupons, create a list, or know what we have in our cabinets before shopping. The shortage of an item or kid request triggers the need to go to the grocery store. The desire to have something new wins out, when we have things in perfect condition or we buy name brands items when generics offer the same label ingredients.

How about the emotional spender: someone going through a life changing event or someone who does not have an outlet for their emotions, but feels better when making a large purchase for themselves or someone else.

Once you are able to distinguish the difference between a necessity and a desire, you can begin putting a plan into action. Start by setting a goal. Your goal should be realistic, obtainable, and not cause you to have stress, strain, or pain.

Some ways to tone down your spending:

- Stop eating out, pack your lunch, and start cooking at home more.
- Use coupons, but remember, just because you have a coupon, does not mean you have to purchase the item.
- Make a list of items in the cupboards, pantry and refrigerator before going grocery shopping.
- Involve the kids in the grocery shopping- teaches basic math and budget skills.
- Create your grocery list before going shopping.
- Set a spending limit.
- Price match -- view all sales ads before shopping and if convenient, check to see which discount stores will match all competitors ads.
- Do not go shopping on an empty stomach!
- Do not go up and down every aisle when doing your grocery shopping; doing so will shrink your wallet and could increase your body mass.
- Do not shop when emotions are running high.



October Celebrations

Wastewater Anniversaries

Birthdays

10/15/1984	27	Richard Alexander senior planning engineer
10/14/1987	24	Edward Unrein collection maintenance superintendent
10/30/1989	22	David Robinson treatment crew member
10/18/1993	18	Jennifer Harder new development engineering manager
10/11/1999	12	Jonathon Erb equipment operator
10/23/2000	11	Douglas Nolkemper operations engineer
10/2/2002	9	Richard Howe truck driver
10/26/2003	8	Jim Greenlee pumps crew leader
10/20/2003	8	Mark Anderson treatment crew leader
10/18/2005	6	Daniel Comtesse automotive technician
10/1/2007	4	Kathe Wingfield permits technician
10/15/2007	4	Kyle Sidwell construction grounds crew member
10/15/2007	4	Matt Matthew engineering technician
10/9/2009	2	Jonathon Kovar treatment crew member
10/15/2009	2	J Wells treatment crew member

David Marx treatment crew leader	1
Steve Miller sewer inspector	3
Don Fowler truck driver	4
John Whitmill treatment crew member	7
James Lorenz truck driver	9
Gregory Decker cleaning crew leader	13
Robert Fischer automotive technician	13
Michael Henry lead automotive technician	13
R Hunley truck driver	14
Stephen Laws treatment superintendent	16
David Staley assistant superintendent collections	19
Timothy Reeves engineering technician	19
Celeste Chaney operations supervisor, Customer Service	20
Steven Garrison maintenance crew member	22
Jeffrey Shoemaker HVAC technician	25
Corey Taylor line construction crew leader	25
Mark Fujisaki cleaning crew leader	29
Paul McClure line construction crew leader	29
Charles McAllister engineering technician	31

