

THE PIPELINE

A NEWSLETTER FOR AND ABOUT THE EMPLOYEES OF JOHNSON COUNTY WASTEWATER



Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2012

Protecting our environment ♦ Serving our customers ♦ Enhancing our communities

Great ticket offer for employees

The **Kansas City Chiefs** are offering a limited number of \$250 and \$390 Season Tickets to all Johnson County employees as well as their friends and family for the 2012 season.

- * Get the best seating locations for years to come
- * Have full use of the 6 month payment plan (Jan-June 2012)
- * Start your seniority now to improve upgrade chances
- * Opportunity to share seats and cost with co-workers, family, and friends

All seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Our contact is **Matt Montgomery** at (816) 920-4704 or send him an email at MMontgomery@Chiefs.nfl.com with any questions or to reserve seats.

Lower Level seats and Scout Investments Club Level seats are also available.

Go Chiefs!



JCW's Annual Employee Recognition Event concluded with naming the department's Employee of the Year. **Tim O'Donnell**, treatment assistant superintendent (second from the right), accepted the award and was joined by (from left) **Hannes Zacharias**, county manager; **Penny Postoak Ferguson**, assistant county manager; **John O'Neil**, JCW general manager; and **Ed Eilert**, chairman of the county's Board of Commissioners.

O'Donnell wins 3rd annual STARS Award

Tim O'Donnell's good deeds did not go unrewarded as he was named the department's third annual Special Thanks and Recognition Spotlight Employee of the Year.

Late last summer as the newly-installed fats, oils and grease digester was being put through its paces, Tim led the clean-up crew while the digester, blurped and spewed its smelly mess until the right chemical combination was finally struck.

"Tim led the charge for the whole staff, who he credited with a quick and professional response. But those supervisors who lead by example in going above and beyond, and with humor (considering what was flowing out of the pipes) set an extraordinary example in the face of a dire situation," said **Penny Postoak Ferguson**, assistant county manager, in making the announcement.

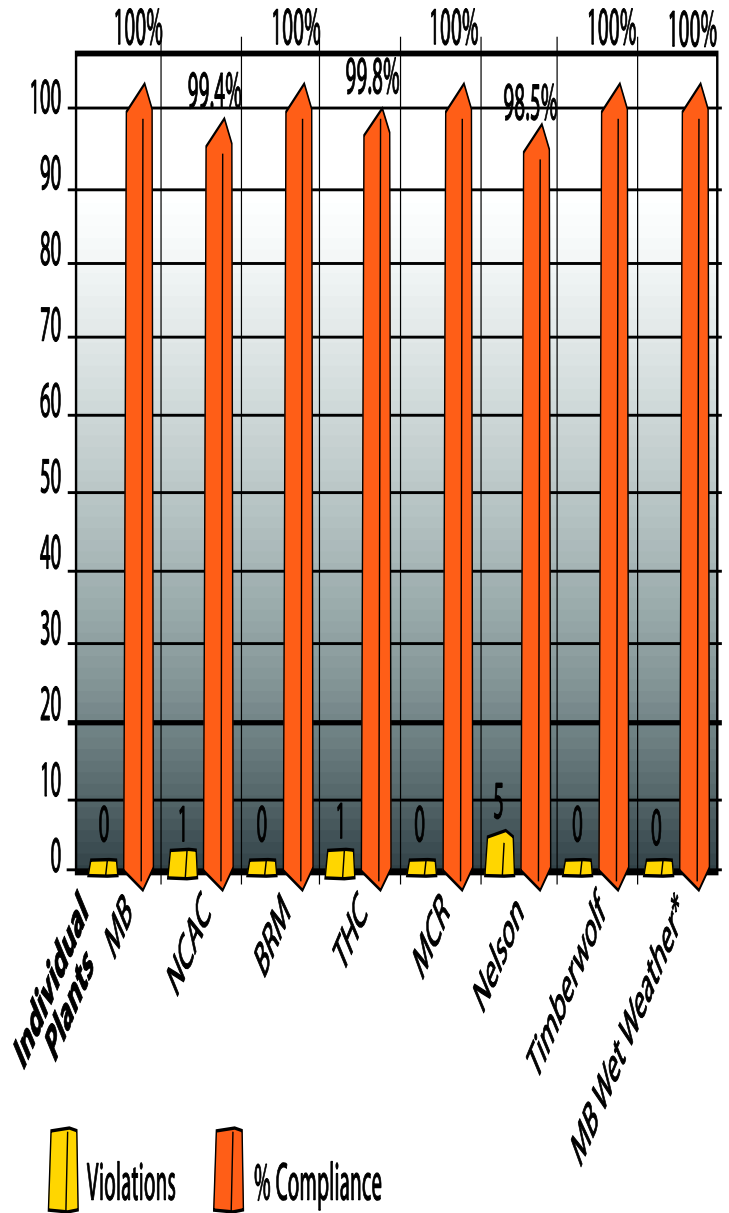
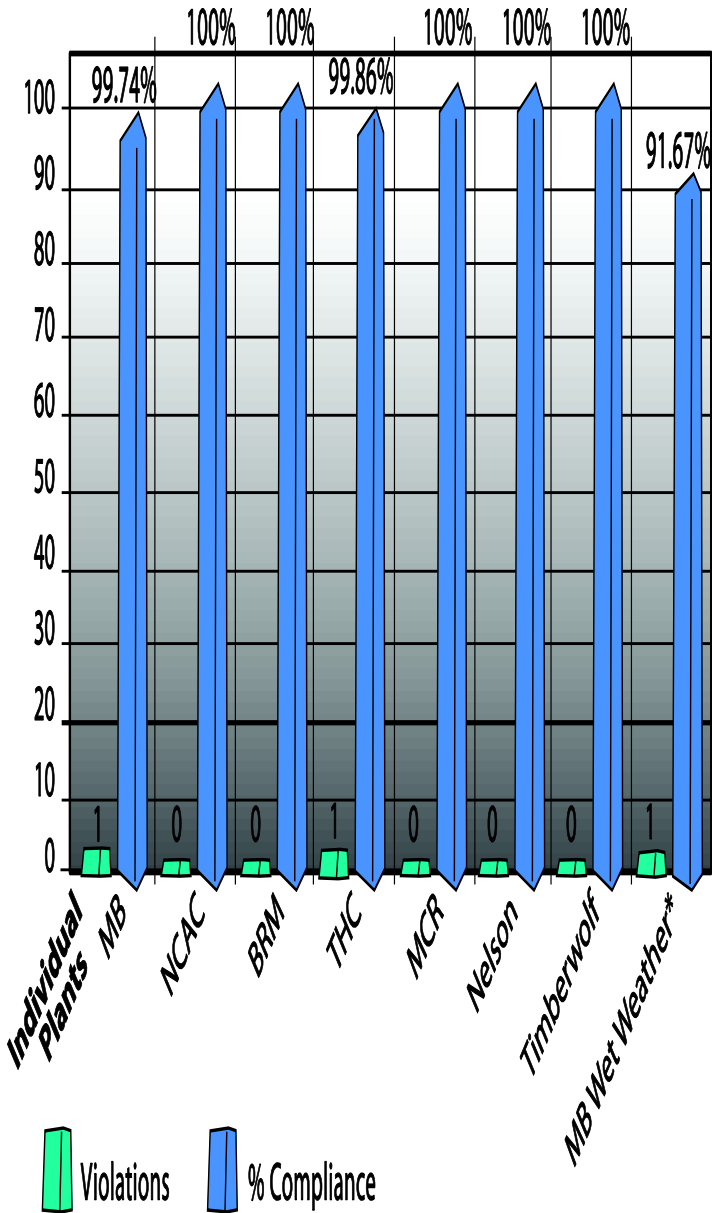
Tim's willingness to go above and beyond originally won him recognition as JCW's First Quarter 2011 STARS recipient. The other contender for the annual recognition was **Abraham Vargas**. He was the fourth quarter recipient for stepping up to assume duties and fill a void created by a vacancy in an industrial electrician position. He was later promoted to that position.

Levels of Service -

NPDES compliance draws closer to perfect all the way

2010 NPDES Permit Compliance

2011 NPDES Permit Compliance



*MB wet weather facility is under a consent order and is being upgraded to meet stricter NPDES limits.

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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.



Shout Outs

Congratulations to **Stacy Gallick**, director of Asset Management, who recently graduated from the KU Emerging Leaders Academy.



ELA 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.

Peggy Hiatt, recent retiree, has a new granddaughter. **Autumn Marie Hiatt** was born Jan. 7, weighing 6 lbs. 14 oz., and was 18 ¾ inches long. Proud parents are **Ellen and Steve Hiatt**. Congratulations, Peggy!



Patrick Beane, Collections engineer, and his wife, Laurie, welcomed a second son to their family on Nov 28, 2011. **Cal-lum James Beane** was 7 lbs. 12 oz. and 20.5 inches long. His proud, big brother is 7 year-old Jarrett. Congratulations, Patrick and Laurie!



There is a lot of talent among JCW staff. The Employee Engagement Committee showed their stuff as they planned and catered this year's Employee Recognition Event. A big thanks to: **Celeste Chaney, Tony Hall, Jen Harder, Zack Millbern, Julie Moser, Tim O'Donnell, Todd Rogers, Bill Rose, Lori Sand, Cynthia Williams, and Troy Young!**

We also have some artists among us, as **Linsey Brashears, Joe Greer, Robert Morris, and Karen Sorensen** have all submitted pieces for the county's second annual ArtsKC art show. Look for more next month.



Meet **Zack Millbern**
Permit Group Supervisor
With JCW 5 years



- ★ My favorite childhood memory is going to my grandparents' lake house at Lake of the Ozarks during the summertime and Easter weekends.
- ★ My favorite food is whatever my wife makes for supper that night.
- ★ My dream vacation is Europe.
- ★ My claim to fame - I was ranked 13th in the nation as a black belt for Middleweight Division in the Pro-Am Sport Karate Circuit.
- ★ My talent is Martial Arts and baseball.
- ★ The lesson I have learned is that life is short and to enjoy all the moments that you have with family and friends.
- ★ My father is my hero.
- ★ The person I would like to meet (dead or alive) is Jesus.
- ★ In high school I was everyone's friend.
- ★ I'm afraid of my four boys becoming teenagers.
- ★ I spend too much on Honey-Do lists.
- ★ My passion is hunting and fishing.
- ★ I have an education in construction management.
- ★ Of all the jobs I've held, I most enjoyed building commercial buildings because at the end of the day you can see what you have accomplished.
- ★ I enjoy spending time with my family and hunting and fishing.
- ★ If I weren't working for JCW, I'd probably be remodeling houses.
- ★ Something funny — I was helping my father-in-law work calves and a calf got between my legs. I lost my balance and sat on the calf and went for a ride, like a bull rider, for about 3 seconds.
- ★ My New Year's resolution is to get back in the habit of exercising more regularly.
- ★ My least favorite sound is nails on a chalk board.

Safety Committee Report

New Business

- **John Hoffman** from Wise Safety attended the January committee meeting and was available to discuss, display, and take orders for hand protection and safety items needed for all locations of Operations and Maintenance.
- All Safety Committee members need to inspect and replace pads and batteries for defibs. Please give the serial numbers to **Frank Manners** for all locations.
- **Rene Ticao**, automotive technician, submitted a winning Safety Idea. Rene suggested installing a shut-off switch for Mission Main Building Fuel Bay for emergencies. This was approved and will be implemented. Way to go, Rene!

Accidents in December 2011

None of the following incidents resulted in any lost time:

- Line repair - spotter was distracted and driver backed into equipment and blew out a tire.
- Tooley Creek - driver backed into holding tank and damaged vehicle.
- Collections Group - employee was walking and missed sidewalk step.
- HVAC - employee strained lumbar.
- TCPS - employee lacerated hand on broken door handle.
- Nelson - employee in centrifuge, removed packing from polymer and dust blew in eyes.

Upcoming training for 2012

- Confined Space
- Lock Out Tag Out
- Bloodborne/Waterborne
- Trenching/Excavation
- Work Truck Safety
- Chemical Handling
- Electrical Training
- Manhole Lid Lifting

Other topics discussed

- It was suggested that all employees should be aware of hearing protection safety in areas where noise may be a concern.
- More lighting is needed at the Airport Plant. Frank will investigate.
- Reminder to perform monthly inspections of all eye was stations.

Please turn to Page 5

New Faces in New Places

Welcome to JCW



Angel Chacon

Maintenance Crew Member

Jan. 9, 2012

Angel and his wife are the parents of a 16 month-old daughter. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his family. Angel has an Associate of Applied Science in Commercial HVAC and an Associate of Liberal Arts from JCCC. Welcome, Angel!



Scott Coakley

Line Cleaning/Inspection Crew Member

Jan. 9, 2012

Scott and his wife, Michele, have a daughter, Madison; a son, Mason; and a dog, Murphy. Scott enjoys fishing, the outdoors, eating, church, and his family. Welcome, Scott!

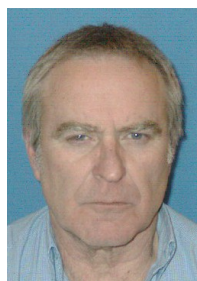


Sean Hubbard

Treatment Crew Member

Dec. 27, 2011

Sean has a wide variety of interests, including sports (soccer, football, and basketball), cars, racing, reading, writing, and art. He graduated from Paola H.S. and served in the U.S. Marine Corp with whom he still has active status. Welcome, Sean!



Will Williamson

Developer/Analyst

Jan. 30, 2012

Will is married to **Sharon Williamson**. He enjoys motorcycles, woodworking and hunting. He earned a BSCS in 1993 from National University in Vista, Calif. Will served in U.S. Marine Corp in 1988-1989 in rotor transport. Welcome, Will!

*We're happy to have you all
join the JCW team!*



Recent retirees, **Marie Seibel** (left) and **Janet Jacobs** made two special contributions to FTN during JCW's recent Annual Employee Recognition Event. Marie made a three-layer cake creation which featured ice skating penguins and an igloo to be auctioned to benefit FTN. Janet purchased the cake for \$60 and added a \$40 contribution as well, then donated the cake to her former colleagues at the Sunset Office Building. Thank you to both women. Your kind and generous spirit has always been appreciated.

Free Income Tax Preparation

Income Requirement: \$50,000 or below

February 2 – April 14

Thursdays: 1 – 4:45 p.m.

Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

First come - First served • No appointment necessary
Spanish language assistance available

**Sunset Drive Office Building,
11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe, 66061**

What to bring with you:

- Photo identification
- Social security cards (for each member of the household)
- Your income information
 - W-2's 1099's
- Last year's tax return
- Your bank routing number and account number
(to take advantage of direct deposit for any refunds.)
Bring your checkbook!

Visit www.johnson.ksu.edu or call
Johnson County K-State Extension 913-715-7000

This service brought to you by the IRS Volunteer
Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

Zacharias set to request department consolidation

The Matrix report which was presented to the Board of Commissioners in 2011 included a recommendation that Information Technology Systems (ITS), Automated Information Mapping System (AIMS) and the Oracle Support Center (OSC) be consolidated into a single information services department.



Given the potential savings that can be realized and the gained efficiencies a consolidated organization can bring, **Hannes Zacharias**, county manager, will recommend at the Feb. 2 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, that these three departments be combined into the Technology and Innovation Department. It will also be recommended that the county manager appoint a Chief Information Officer to head this newly-formed department. The Justice Information Management System (JIMS) will remain a standalone department with the possibility of joining the new department at some point in the future.

The merger of these entities provides numerous benefits including having one enterprise-wide leader for information technology services reporting to the County Manager, potentially greater depth of skills with a broader employee base, sharing infrastructure, improved communications and coordination, economies of scale including “back office” functions and reducing the number of direct reports to the County Manager’s Office by two.

The estimated ongoing savings is a minimum \$173,373 to a maximum of \$400,000 depending on the reorganization of staff and potential personnel reductions.

The name “Technology and Innovation Department” is intended to serve as a temporary name until such time that a permanent name is determined. A new department name, mission statement and organizational structure will be created and approved under the leadership of the new Chief Information Officer.

Safety Committee Report

Continued from Page 4

- First Aid training for all Safety Committee members will be held some time in 2012.

Next meeting is Feb. 1, 2012, Nelson, MM10, Rm. 101 at 9 a.m.

February

Wastewater Anniversaries

2/1/1973	39	David Noyes pumps crew leader
2/11/1985	27	Clarence Williams treatment crew leader
2/17/1986	26	Kenneth Kellison assistant director of treatment
2/9/1987	25	Fred Preusch assistant superintendent collections
2/13/1989	23	Mike Peppers treatment crew member
2/20/1990	22	Anthony Hall IT analyst
2/26/1990	22	Timothy Engbrotten treatment assistant superintendent
2/12/1990	22	Vincent Feden assistant superintendent collections
2/14/1994	18	Ryan Guerra jet-vac crew leader
2/5/2001	11	Jason Reaka cleaning crew leader
2/18/2002	10	Geoffrey McManis cleaning crew leader
2/14/2005	7	Arthur Famuliner cleaning/inspection crew member
2/6/2006	6	Ramona Brooks treatment crew member
2/19/2007	5	Terry McQuerry wastewater project engineer
2/11/2008	4	Robert Glover treatment crew member
2/6/2008	4	Joseph Barnes senior engineering technician
2/8/2010	2	Randall Watterson treatment crew member
2/15/2010	2	Joseph Williams treatment crew member

Birthdays

Douglas Penner maintenance crew member	2
Robbie Hernandez cleaning/inspection crew member	6
David Rush cleaning/inspection crew member	7
Guy Smith TV crew leader	8
Jonathon Kovar treatment crew leader	10
Douglas Nolkemper operations engineer	10
John Beery treatment crew member	12
Tonya Bennett cleaning crew leader	14
Randall Watterson treatment crew member	16
Jason Reaka cleaning crew leader	19
Anthony Hall IT analyst	19
Gregory Gay pumps crew leader	23
Kelly Krieger treatment crew member	26
Robert Paris cleaning/inspection crew member	27

