

THE PIPELINE

Monthly Newsletter

March 2008



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Mission Statement

Our mission is to protect the public health, safety, and the environment by providing quality service, environmental stewardship and renewable resources.



Deputy Director Mike Bunch Accepts Job in Bolivia

by Laura Hagen Fairbanks

Deputy Director of Planning and Engineering Mike Bunch, P.E., recently announced his resignation from RWRD to pursue a new position with the Apex Mining Company in San Cristobal, Bolivia. Mike came to work for RWRD in September 2004. Prior to working for Pima County, he had been working in mining in the country of Chile. At that time, he decided he wanted to be closer to his family. Upon returning to Tucson, Mike began following newspaper accounts of the department and his interest was piqued. At the time

the department was plagued with budgetary shortfalls, capacity issues, infrastructure needs, and other serious issues. According to Mike, "I saw a unique challenge here and thought to myself, let's see if I can go make a difference."

When Mike arrived, department morale was at an all time low. "My goal from the beginning was to make this a fun place to work and to highlight the importance of every job. I've lived in countries where people died of water-borne diseases. The general public doesn't have a clue of what this department does."

Asked if he thought he made a difference and met his goals, Mike responded, "I'd like to think I did, but we'll let the employees be the judge of that." The employees interviewed for this article clearly believe he did.

"What really impressed me about Mike was that he went out to Richey and rode with the different sections to see and understand what our field staff deal with on daily basis. The morale among field personnel changed when he did that. I got a lot of feedback from staff saying they thought it was cool that the boss would actually do that. That experience made them feel comfortable enough to talk to Mike and take advantage of his open door policy." Annette Duarte

"Before Mike got here we were in a flux. He came in and stabilized us. He steered us in the right direction. Now it's up to us to keep us in the right direction and to maintain." Antonio Vereen

"Mike always took the time to listen and talk to staff. He offered his help and support to me during a difficult time in my life. I'm going to miss him." Lorraine Simon

"I believe that Mike Bunch is among a handful of individuals that know how to combine a genuine concern for people, passion for his work, wisdom, and the appropriate use of authority to create a winning team. I believe this combination of qualities has brought the department to a new level." Cecilia Vindiola

"Mike's leadership and management skills made a tremendous impact on how daily business has been conducted. His let's 'get-it-done' attitude has been refreshing and much needed. The department will sorely miss his humor and Friday attire and devotion to staff. He may be gone, but hopefully his legacy will live on." Debbie Stratton

Mike Bunch loves a challenge, and his new position will afford him just that. He will have oversight of more than 1,000 employees, most of whom have experience as shepherders and farmers.

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Some will know how to read and write, although many will have had little to no education. He will be responsible for transforming an indigenous workforce with no previous mining experience into safety-conscious and efficient mining personnel.

San Cristobal is located in southern Bolivia at 14,000 feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains. Mike will have two homes in Bolivia; one in the village of San Cristobal and one in the Bolivian capital of La Paz. La Paz is about a ten-hour drive from San Cristobal, but Mike will have access to a small airplane and a pilot, so he will actually be only 40 minutes from his La Paz residence.

Having worked in South America before, Mike is looking forward to meeting and interacting with the people of San Cristobal. His wife Tami has decided for now not to join Mike in Bolivia as she is looking forward to the birth of their first grandchild in May.

Mike relates that when he and Tami lived in Chile, Tami was involved in charity work. She belonged to a group of women known as the "las Damas del Abra." This group worked with a local orphanage that did not have enough school uniforms for all the children. Because of this, half the children would go to school in the morning and then would return to the orphanage a few hours later. The children who had stayed home, would change into the uniforms the first group was wearing so they too could go to school for half a day. Tami worked with other Chileans and with American contacts to raise enough money to purchase school uniforms so that all the children at the orphanage could attend school all day. Although Tami intends to stay in Arizona, she already has begun to purchase school supplies for the children of San Cristobal. Even though she intends to live in Arizona, Tami will make regular visits to Bolivia while Mike works there.

While Mike looks forward to his new adventure, he leaves RWRD with mixed emotions. "I hope the teamwork that has been fostered over the past few years continues along with the good management chemistry that has been developed. This department - our employees - have demonstrated that the department is indeed "world class." Our recent ISO and OHSAS certifications are evidence of that. I am leaving a world class team of employees for which this community should be very grateful."

RWRD wishes Mike a fond if not melancholy farewell. His leadership and vision have inspired many department employees. We wish him the best of luck as he returns to a field in which he has more than 20 years of experience. When he returns to Tucson on visits, we expect him to stop in and treat us to stories about his adventures in Bolivia.



CCTV Operator, Ray Baldwin

CCTV Coming to a Sewer Line near You *by John Munden*

Just because you may see one of our Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) trucks in your neighborhood doesn't mean there is a problem with the sewer system. Closed circuit televising of the sewer conveyance system is a means of inspecting the condition of over 3,400 miles of public sewer lines within the county's system and identifying possible problems that may need to be fixed. Preventive maintenance and safety are our priorities. Not only do we have the responsibility of protecting the general public from unsafe conditions that could be caused by sanitary sewer overflows. We also need to keep our utility maintenance workers safe. In addition to providing them with protective clothing and proper safety equipment, traffic control is also incorporated when necessary.

Following state law requirements the Conveyance Division has developed a plan known as CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance Plan). The CMOM program, under ADEQ, is mandated to have all public utilities in the state of Arizona enforce requirements to maintain their sewer systems. In the event of a sanitary sewer overflow, communities that officially adopt a CMOM program typically are allowed to direct funds toward areas that improve their performance as opposed to paying fines to regulatory agencies. Since October 2006, this plan has been followed by the Conveyance Division to properly manage, operate and maintain the public sewage conveyance systems for Pima County. The use of a CCTV camera identifies sewer pipes that are in need of repair, and looks for possible problems that may cause sewage backups or overflows from manholes.

Recently I caught up with CCTV Operators—Ray Baldwin and Carl Armbruster; one of the teams that operates and maintains one of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) trucks. They gave me a tour of their truck and demonstrated how their operation worked. Their primary responsibilities include visually inspecting gravity sewer pipes within the public system. They showed, utilizing a CCTV camera mounted to a "tractor" type device, how their inspections can identify potential problems. They can move the camera several hundred feet into the sewer lines and identify points of concerns. Points of concerns can include cracked or broken pipes and blockages in the flow caused by the build up of grease or debris. The cameras also chase a few roaches.

The CCTV Operators record the data they find, and in the event repairs are needed, a work order is generated and submitted to Field Engineering along with any pertinent information obtained from their recorded CCTV findings. Field Engineering then schedules the necessary repairs.

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RWRD purchased three new trucks for the CCTV Operators and placed them into service at the beginning of this fiscal year. These new trucks have higher quality recording equipment to maintain a more accurate observation of the condition of our sewer pipes. Operators are equipped to televise lines from four inches in diameter and up. The NASSCO (National Association of Sewer Service Companies) rating system is used to measure the severity of needed repairs. Repairs with a high rating (four to five on the scale) are scheduled as soon as possible.

Conveyance Division employees address issues of concern throughout the system as they arise. Issues of concern can result in follow up investigations after sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), investigation of sewer conditions in response to odor complaints, and efforts to locate hidden system components (such as buried manholes). In addition to the Conveyance Division staff, outside services are also utilized to provide CCTV services. Outside contracts provide CCTV inspections and NASSCO ratings for sewer lines less than 15 inches in diameter. They also provide inspection services associated with the acceptance of new construction.

Prior to July 2007, when new trucks went into service, there were only two CCTV crews consisting of four operators. With the new trucks on line, there are now three CCTV crews and six operators. The CCTV Operators are Carl Armbruster, Ray Baldwin, Steve Portugal, Gabriel Rascon, Luis Rodriguez, and Salvador Ruiz. (The two older trucks are used as back ups in the event that the newer trucks need to be serviced.)

In calendar year 2007, 589,934 feet of sewer lines were televised by CCTV crews. In January 2008, 69,762 feet of sewer lines were televised. If this trend continues, the Conveyance Division will be able to televise approximately 20,000 additional feet of sewer line each month.

Work Management Implementation in RWRD Treatment

by Tim Harmon

In June of 2007, the Treatment Division began implementing SPL's Enterprise Asset and Work Management Program (also known as Synergen) as a Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS). The division applied the modules needed for reactive and preventive maintenance, including preventative maintenance (PM) routes, PM master, benchmark work orders, assets, timekeeping and others. We also implemented the inventory module to track our warehouse stock, which required the use of the master catalog module.

By implementing all these modules, we hope to better understand the cost of maintaining all of our facilities. We have established a quarterly meeting for analyzing the efficiency of the CMMS system and the cost of repairs to the assets. Due to only having the CMMS system in operation for just over two quarters, the data we are retrieving from the system still needs to be refined. More history will be gathered to determine how well we are managing repair costs. We hope that once we have two years of data, we will be able to use the system to identify problem equipment within each facility and justify possible upgrades or replacements with real-life cost models and sound financial justifications.

During the implementation phase, we discovered several opportunities for improvement. First and foremost is the proper identification of all assets on which work will be performed, along with the determination of detail needed. For example, should we identify the pump only, or should we also note the associated components, i.e.: motor, valves, gauges and switches? We found that increased amounts of data would have been generated more quickly had we properly entered all assets with appropriate model numbers, manufacturer names, specifications and bill of materials (BOM) prior to implementation of the CMMS system. We still do not have the BOM entered on all of our assets. The recent addition of planners to our staff will assist us in collecting the information we require and meet our deadlines.

At the initial roll out of the system, there was resistance to the change, as is expected with any new processes. We found the supervisors' buy-in to the system increased after we held quarterly meetings. Supervisors began to appreciate the amount of useful information that is available when the system is applied properly and data is correctly entered. Our operators have realized that problems they discover are getting more attention since we have implemented a CMMS system. This is an improvement over the old paper work-order process. The operators can easily look up the status of any maintenance activities and plant repairs. Since the implementation, we have slowly increased the training levels of individuals and are looking to move several key responsibilities to all levels of plant employees. By adding these responsibilities, there has been more acceptance of the system by plant maintenance staff.

It is still too early in the life of the CMMS program to notice any productivity gains. We are still using most of our resources to complete data entry on our assets and to fine-tune our workflow procedures. By the end of the second year, we should be able to show that our productivity has increased and that the maintenance sections have moved away from reactive maintenance and are performing more productive preventive maintenance. With the movement to preventive maintenance, we should also show a substantial increase in equipment reliability and a marked decrease in asset downtime.

The success to date of this project has been a cooperative effort among RWRD finance section staff, RWRD Treatment Division warehouse and planning staff, the Pima County Central Finance Department and the Pima County IT Department.



An Unusual Visitor to the Ina WPCF

by Larry Sawicki

A wild bobcat recently was spotted at the Ina Road WRF atop the facility's patio canopy. A large mesquite tree hanging over the canopy provided the bobcat a path to its leafy overhead perch. Arizona Game and Fish was notified, and a representative from the agency came to see the animal. They informed us that it appeared to be a young female.

Occasionally, the bobcat could be seen napping during the late morning and afternoon. Once in a while, the bobcat would curiously peer down at the people milling past. Late one afternoon, I noticed the sleepy wildcat gazing down at me and I was able to obtain its photograph.

There have also been reported bobcat sightings at the Outlying Facilities location.

Taxonomists define the bobcat as *Lynx rufus*. Rufus is Latin for "red" or "red-haired". Most bobcats are about twice the size of an average domestic housecat. They nocturnally feed and although they prefer rabbit, they will also hunt birds, mice and reptiles. Since they are nocturnal, bobcats are rarely seen by humans. Bobcats are solitary and territorial, are excellent climbers, have sharp hearing and vision and have a good sense of smell. Surprisingly, wild carnivorous bobcats are found throughout the United States. They are not threatened with extinction but are regulated on defined protected federal, state and city lands.

Here is a bit of local bobcat trivia. On October 17, 1915, the University of Arizona freshmen football team raised \$9.91 to purchase a wild bobcat. On the following day, the team introduced the cat to the student body and the cat was given the name "Rufus Arizona" after then UA President, Rufus B. Von Kleinsmid. Unfortunately, Rufus Arizona died the following year, but he had many successors. The Arizona Wildcat newspaper memorialized Rufus in an editorial which stated, "Rufus' growls urged our team to victory and spoke of his strength, alertness and tenacity that represented the true Arizona spirit."

Additional information on bobcats can be obtained from the following websites: www.arizona.edu/tours/history/history10.php, bss.sfsu.edu/holzman/courses/Fall00Projects/lynxrufus.html, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobcat

Dear Personnel Representative

by Dan Brown

One of my co-workers is harassing me. Recently he accused me of spending too much time talking to someone even though the conversation was work related. Another time the co-worker told my supervisor that I was leaving work early. I want to file a grievance against this employee. Who should I file my grievance with?

Signed Concerned Employee

Dear Concerned Employee:

Technically you cannot file a grievance against another employee. When you file a grievance you are filing it against the department and/or Pima County. Keep in mind that if you file a grievance, you need to have a grievable issue as outlined in Merit System Rule 13. Given the circumstances that you cite above, you have a few options:

Initiate mediation with the employee that you feel is harassing you. Pursuant to Personnel Policy 7-115, any county employee may initiate the mediation process by contacting the Human Resources Department Mediation Unit. The goal of mediation is to resolve conflicts. The mediation is arbitrated by a neutral third party.

Depending on how volatile the conflict is between you and this employee, take a step forward and try to resolve the conflict yourself. Remember you are responsible for establishing and maintaining effective working relations with co-workers. All employees are rated on their interaction with others during the performance appraisal process. Just keep in mind that when you approach the employee you should genuinely attempt to resolve the issue in good faith. If you try to make the other employee wrong or accuse him of some wrong doing, it may only make matters worse. If you feel you can't keep your cool, then this option is not good for you.

Discuss the issue with your supervisor. Give your supervisor an opportunity to rectify the situation. Pursuant to Personnel Policy 7-119 V., supervisors are responsible for administering the rules and policies in a fair and equitable manner as well as assuring that subordinates' work activities are performed efficiently and effectively. When there is an internal dispute between co-workers it usually disrupts the work environment of the entire office, so your supervisor has a vested interest in resolving the conflict.

Remember an informal resolution to conflict is the most appropriate manner of resolution.

Sincerely, Wastewater Reclamation Dept. Personnel Representative

If you have a personnel issue or concern, please feel free to write a letter to Dear Personnel Representative, 7th floor, Public Works Building.

Servicemember Family and Medical Leave

by Annie Szalay

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) now entitles eligible employees to take leave for a covered family member's service in the Armed Forces ("Servicemember FMLA").

Employee Entitlement to Servicemember FMLA

Leave Entitlement

Servicemember FMLA provides eligible employees unpaid leave for one or more of the following reasons:

A "qualifying exigency" arising out of a covered family member's active duty or call to active duty in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency plan; and/or to care for a covered family member who has incurred an injury or illness in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces provided that such injury or illness may render the family member medically unfit to perform duties of the member's office, grade, rank or rating. ("Qualifying exigency" is in the process of being defined by the Secretary of Labor via regulations. The Department of Labor is expeditiously preparing such regulations.)

Duration of Servicemember FMLA

When leave is due to a "qualifying exigency", an eligible employee may take up to twelve workweeks of leave during any twelve-month period. When leave is to care for an injured or ill service member, an eligible employee may take up to 26 workweeks of leave during a single twelve-month period to care for the servicemember. Leave to care for an injured or ill servicemember, when combined with other FMLA-qualifying leave, may not exceed 26 weeks in a single twelve-month period.

Servicemember FMLA runs concurrent with other leave entitlements provided under federal, state and local law.

Security Seconds

by Matt Matthewson

Although it wasn't one of our "training objectives", a definite outcome of the recent Security Awareness Training presentations was this: everyone can agree that Jackie Cutrell is no Justin Timberlake or Eminem (and that's probably a good thing). So maybe trying to get him to wear a backwards baseball cap and pick up a rap beat wasn't the greatest of ideas. But if "memorable" was the objective, then perhaps it was OK.

In fact, based on input from one of our nationally-contracted security consultants, we've decided to change our "Utility Secur-ditty" from a rap to a... fight song. They assured us we were the only utility in the country to have a fight song. No doubt, this is part of what tipped the scales for the auditors in favor of our recent ISO/OHSAS certification! Imagine if it only had a melody. Perhaps we have an E-RAP contest in the making here. In the meantime, everyone needs to work on committing the Secur-ditty lyrics to memory:

We're here to build "Identified Pride"

And to strengthen "Sign-in Discipline".

We're here to fight "Access Excess"

And to win the "Threat Set Net Bet"

Or to call in the "Protection Section"!

Thanks for your continued interest in supporting the department's Security Program.

Summer Youth Program

by Karin Garrison

The Summer Youth Program is just around the corner. This program is for youth between the ages of 14-21 years of age and allows young adults to gain valuable work experience. The program consists of two five-week-long sessions.

The workday for the youth workers begins at 7:00 A.M. and ends at 3:00 P.M. Most of the youth work outdoors doing various landscaping and clean-up duties. There are also a few positions indoors in different sections of the Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD). Natural Resources Parks & Recreation Department (NRP&R) also has jobs at different county recreations centers. Summer youth workers are paid \$6.90 per hour.

This summer, the Staff Training & Development Section from RWRD along with NRP&R will employ a total of 100 youth. The summer youth program provides a wonderful opportunity for youngsters to earn money while learning how to be responsible employees. The county will provide convenient pick-up sites where program participants can obtain a ride to the main site.

In addition to providing work experience, the Staff Training & Development Section also provides classes in areas such as CPR, First Aid, Adult Education, and Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention.

This year's program will run from May 29 through August 8. There are two-sessions. The first session will run from May 29 through July 3. The second session will run from July 7 through August 8.

Anyone interested in applying for the program or receiving additional information can contact Karin Garrison at 407-3725 or karin.garrison@wwm.pima.gov. Applications are available in the Training Office at the Roger Road Wastewater Treatment Plant, 2600 West Sweetwater Drive.

Arizona Future Cities Competition 2008

by Lorraine Simon

For the last two years, RWRD employee Kurt Stemm has mentored middle school students from Booth-Fickett Magnet Middle School, to prepare for the National Engineers Week Future Cities competition. This year, his focus was on recruiting other Tucson-area middle schools for the competition.

The 11th Annual Arizona Future City Competition was held in January, at the Phoenix Burton-Barr Central Library. This competition is a national team-based educational program sponsored by the engineering community to promote technological literacy and engineering to middle school students. The program encourages interest in math, science, and engineering through hands-on, real world applications.

Working in teams of three, the students create a city of the future including infrastructure design. This year the students designed a city emphasizing safety planning for unforeseen urban disasters similar to such disasters as Hurricane Katrina, the freeway bridge collapse in Minnesota, and the devastation to a small Kansas town by a tornado. This year's Future City theme encourages young minds to predict and correct the potential vulnerabilities of our country's existing infrastructure.

Numerous prizes are awarded at the regional level. The winners of the regional competitions presented their projects in Washington, D.C. during National Engineers Week, February 17-23, 2008. The grand prize is a trip to the U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

Employees Complimented

by Shirley Rafacz

It's nice to hear we did a great job from our citizens. On February 11, I took a phone message from Mr. Brian Gross, President of the HOA of Canyon Woods Estates, thanking Noel Ortiz, Field Engineering Manager, and Judy Lincoln, Senior Civil Engineering Assistant, for the great clean-up job in the area of Kolb and Sabino Canyon. He also expressed his gratitude for posting the sign that shows the area to be private property. Kudos!

Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility Employees of the Year

by Gwen Chandler

Ronald Leverty, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, received the Roger Road 2007 Employee of the Year award for Roger Road Operations. George Palenzuela, Trades Maintenance Specialist, received the Roger Road 2007 Employee of the Year award for Maintenance.

Both George and Ronald were recognized by the supervisors of the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility for going above and beyond their regular duties to help their co-workers complete tasks.

We would like to thank both Ronald and George for their hard work and dedication to the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department and to the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility.



Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility Employees of the Year Ronald Leverty and George Palenzuela.

E-RAP Update

by Karen Ramage

There is now a slightly revised Employee on the Spot Award form. This form is available in both Word format and as a PDF on the department's intranet site at wwm.pima.gov/erap/index_erap.htm. Copies of this form will also be available in the award form holders that are located throughout the department, near the Employee Communications bulletin boards.

The original three-part NCR Employee on the Spot Award forms may continue to be used, until we run out of the current stock.

Thanks to all of you who take the time to recognize those individuals who "go the extra mile." A special thanks to all of the dedicated and hardworking members of this department – you ARE appreciated!

Please send E-RAP Employee on the Spot Award nominations to Thom Nielsen at the Ina Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

E-RAP on the Spot Awards

by Thom Nielsen

Listed below are Employee on the Spot Award nominations received for the month of February.

Hale Burrus

by Michael Gritzuk

Hale was asked to work on the RWRD calendar and ended up spending many hours working on this project. The result of Hale's efforts is a beautiful calendar that reflects the activities and work efforts of RWRD staff. Hale did a beautiful job in laying out the calendar. It is an attractive and useful tool. Thank you Hale!



*Jerry Stumbaugh—
Employee of the Quarter
Winter 2007*

Sean Critchley and Dave Carrillo

by Pete Petty

For teamwork during the inspection of the fine screens at the Randolph Park Lift Station. They found damaged shafts, gears and chains. Working as a team, Sean and Dave replaced all worn items with minimal downtime.

Annette Duarte

by Cecilia Vindiola

Annette campaigned to collect cash for the Christmas Food Bank Drive contest which increased cash donations from \$290 during the Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive to \$970 for the Christmas Food Bank Drive. Annette's ability to discern what is needed, carry it out and do it with humor and enthusiasm is a winning combination of skills. Thank you Annette for helping to make RWRD the winner in 2007. Let's do it again in 2008!

Alex Greenwood

by Donna Wright

Alex always makes sure she can do what ever it takes to help make our jobs easier to do!! She goes above and beyond to help us and she hardly ever gets a thank you.

Kathy LaSure

by Dennis Froehlich

Kathy consistently meets her commitments on deliverables – even under very difficult timelines. Kathy always provides invaluable perspective and feedback on process and database concerns.



*Left to Right: Lorrie McQuie, Alex
Greenwood, Mary Ann Riesgo and Ann
Stephenson*

Jan McDonald

by Mona Orozco

I want to nominate Jan for her positive attitude and the help she provides the Director's office in all the impromptu requests we make to her. She always completes these tasks in a timely manner and is always available to assist us. Thank you Jan!

Lorrie McQuie

by Donna Wright

Lorrie always seems to look out for the other person. Whenever asked to do a task Lorrie is right there to do it without ever asking for any help. Her attitude is whatever it takes and then some.

Mona Orozco

by Cecilia Vindiola

Mona enthusiastically participated and worked diligently with the Deputy Directors and Outlying Facilities to increase the amount of frozen meats donated by department employees from 86 pounds during the Food Bank's Thanksgiving Food Drive to 640 pounds for the Christmas Food Drive. Mona's dedication and constant efforts combined with her friendly smile and enthusiasm contributed to the final victory of RWRD over the Department of Transportation and Regional Flood Control District. Thank you Mona for helping to make RWRD the winner in 2007. Let's do it again in 2008!

Bobby Sanchez

by Pete Petty and Bill Moore

While performing his plant responsibilities at Randolph Park, Bobby Sanchez noticed a water leak in the three-way system. He found a cracked three-inch fitting. If not repaired, this fitting could have come apart and caused flooding to the plant. Bobby had the system shut down so that he could replace the fitting and prevent a potential flood.

Ann Stephenson

by Donna Wright

Ann has a lot of responsibility in ordering and maintaining supplies and equipment for a large work unit, and she does her job with a great deal of integrity. She always tries to get the workers the things they need to perform their jobs. It's a thankless job but Ann does it very well.

Cecilia Vindiola

by Michael Gritzuk

Cecilia originated the idea of an RWRD calendar and spent many hours working on the calendar. Because of her efforts, RWRD employees have a calendar that features our employees, their activities and their work efforts. The calendar also provides important information including pay dates and pay period ending dates. Cecilia's efforts have resulted in a useful tool for staff. *Thank you Cecilia!*

Eric Wieduwilt

by Patsy Ronquillo

I have noticed that Mr. Wieduwilt has undertaken two very stressful jobs in the past few weeks. Eric has done this with a smile and wonderful attitude. None of his work has suffered and he has not passed on any stress to his staff members. On the contrary, he has been very positive and focused on new improvements for the Engineering Division. *Great Job!*

Service Anniversaries

by Gwen Chandler

Two employees at the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility were recently awarded with their service anniversary pins. Gary Michalek, Roger Road Principal WWTP Operator, received his 14-year service pin and Peter Magaddino, Roger Road Maintenance Foreman, received his 25-year service pin.

Congratulations to both Gary and Peter for their years of dedication and service to the department!



*Peter Magaddino,
Maintenance
Foreman, Receives
25-Year Service Pin*



*Gary Michalek,
Principal WWTP
Operator, with
Service Pin*

National Wear Red Day

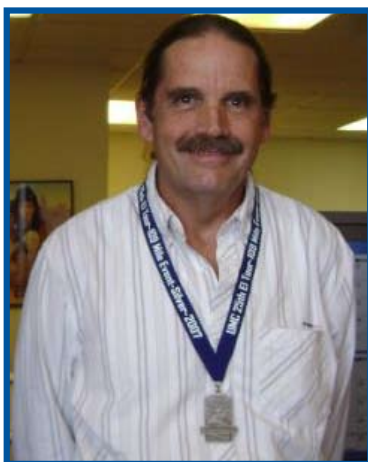
by Gwen Chandler



Employees at the Roger Road Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) participated in the National Wear Red Day, on February 1. The National Wear Red Day is sponsored by the American Heart Association, to foster awareness on how to prevent heart disease. A drawing for participants in the National Wear Red Day at Roger Road was won by Kenneth George. Kenneth's prize included a gift bag, cookbook, and pedometer.

Thank you to all at the Roger Road WRF employees who participated in this awareness event.

Kenneth George Receives Prizes for National Wear Red Day



John Munden Wearing 'El Tour de Tucson' 2007 Medallion

John Munden Inspires Fitness at Any Age

by Lorraine Simon

John Munden, a Civil Engineering Manager for the Conveyance Division, runs and rides his way to fitness.

He rode in last year's El Tour de Tucson for the first time. Weather permitting, John uses his bicycle as part of his daily commute to work. "It's about a 25-mile round trip to work and back," says John. "After being away from it for 25 years, I started bicycling again about two years ago. Because of traffic dangers and getting bicycles stolen, I got away from it. But, since Tucson has become a more bicycle-friendly city, and gas prices have been going up, I decided to give it another try."

John's story serves as an inspiration to us all. When he was 60 he was hit by a motorist while bicycling home from work at the Ina Road WRF. As a result of that injury, John underwent surgery and hospitalization. For many people, that experience would have led to the end of bicycling, but not for John. After healing, he continued to pursue his passion. Says John, "The bike crash kept me off my feet for six weeks and off the bike for six months, which really drove me crazy. It's great to be able ride again. I also like to get out on weekends to enjoy some of the scenic bike routes around the Tucson area."

Besides bicycling, John is also an avid runner and competes in local competitions which benefit charities. He took up jogging after graduating from college, and started running in 10 kilometer (10K) runs over 30 years ago. Last year he ran his first marathon. His normal routine, on days he doesn't ride his bicycle, is a three to five-mile run in the evenings after work. When time allows, he runs ten miles or more on weekends preceding a running competition event. "In the beginning I couldn't finish a run without walking part of the way, but I got better. I got away from it, put on over 25 pounds, so got back into it about fifteen years ago. Besides keeping my weight down it's a great way for me to release stress," says John. "The runs give me the opportunity to see how well or poorly I do against others in my age group."

John joined the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) in 1989 as a Project Manager in the Treatment Design and Construction Section of the Engineering Division. Over the years, John has held several positions, including Industrial Wastewater Control Supervisor, Special Projects Engineer and Civil Engineering Manager. Some of his past responsibilities included managing the design and construction of the Roger Road WRF 11 MGD Expansion Project and the Ina Rd WRF 12.5 MGD Process Change and Expansion Project.

Today, John's holds the position of Civil Engineering Manager in the Conveyance Division. His responsibilities include managing the Geographic Information System (GIS) sewer infrastructure maintenance management program, odor control program, environmental planning program, Closed Circuit Television inspections program, and asset inspections and survey project.

"Working for RWRD has provided me many learning opportunities and many difficult challenges," says John. "I enjoy the successful completion of challenging projects. I've always liked learning how things work. I decided to study engineering to learn more about how things work. Even though engineering studies have been very difficult for me, through stubbornness and persistence I've grown to like engineering challenges."

Prior to joining RWRD, John earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Arizona. He also holds professional registrations as a civil engineer and land surveyor. He is a certified grade four wastewater treatment plant operator and certified grade three wastewater collections system operator. "I worked as an engineer for private consultants and (for) myself for eight years and in the public sector for six years prior to my employment with Pima County. I have designed and managed the design and construction of water and wastewater treatment facilities, airports, highways and subdivisions before coming to work for the county," says John.

John was born on November 4, 1945 in Wichita, Kansas. He moved to Tucson in 1971 after serving in the U.S. Army. "I visited Tucson just before my military tour of duty and fell in love with it. Due to layoffs in the aircraft industry, the job I had when I was drafted into the Army no longer existed, and I really had no ties to the Land of Oz, so I decided to start over in Tucson," explains John.

John has been married 28 years to Gail. They have two (adult) children—Alexandra and Jonathan, and two grandchildren—Brigitte and Logan.

March Trivia

by Lorraine Simon

Test your knowledge on how much you know about these well-celebrated holidays and events for the month of March. As an added bonus, we've thrown in a couple of RWRD questions to test your department knowledge.

1. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. In what country was the first St. Patrick's Day Parade held?
 - a. United States
 - b. Ireland
 - c. England
2. Easter Sunday will be celebrated early this year. What factor influences when Easter will occur?
 - a. Easter occurs the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring Equinox
 - b. The dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar
 - c. Easter occurs around the time of Passover on the Hebrew calendar
3. Most County workers will receive an administrative day off for Cesar Chavez Day, on either March 21 or March 24 this year. What year did Cesar Chavez Day become a public holiday?
 - a. 2003
 - b. 2000
 - c. 1998
4. The Arizona Diamondbacks have trained in Tucson since the team's inception. What year did that occur?
 - a. 1997
 - b. 1998
 - c. 2000
5. What two professional league teams train at Tucson Electric Park?
 - a. Colorado Rockies and Chicago White Sox
 - b. Colorado Rockies and Arizona Diamondbacks
 - c. Arizona Diamondbacks and Chicago White Sox
6. Utility Locators perform which of the following tasks?
 - a. Review engineering maps
 - b. Identify sewer line and manhole locations
 - c. Spray paint streets and sidewalks without risking arrest
7. Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators must have a certified license. How many levels are there?
 - a. Two
 - b. Four
 - c. Six

March Birthdays

by Lorraine Simon

Listed below are employees who have birthdays for the month of March.

Touseef Ahmad, Sandra Albert, Joseph Amendola, Roger Artz, Ira Bellinger, Jimmy Berndt, Chantal Blissett, Dan Brown, Jennifer Castellanos, Joseph Doranski, Anthon Ellert, Verna Galvan, David Goodyear, Jens Hill, Don Irvin, William Lease, Albert Lopez, Carlos Lopez, Luellen Lynch, John Makar, Manuel Medina, Jerry Miller, John Mongelli, Sherri Mullins, Robert O'Neil, Byron Porretta, Joe Reale, Robert Reece, Steven Richey, Eddie Robles, Mario Robles, Gilbert Rojas, Tim Rowe, Karen Sanson, Chunyan Shi, Ricardo Silva, Gregory Spence, Jerry Stumbaugh, Thomas Tomchak, Kathy Underwood, Krisna Valenzuela, Gerald Villalobos, Thomas Willett, Linda Wright, Justin Ziegler

Comings and Goings (February 2007)

by Carol Easter

New Hires – Welcome to Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department

Benjes, David

WW Lab Chemist Specialist
Ina Treatment

***Von Rago, Lilian**

Special Staff Assistant
Community Relations

Promotions

Nichols, Erik

Sr. WW Conveyance System Monitor
Outlying Facilities

***Orta, Kathy**

Sr. Administrative Support Specialist
Ina Treatment

Ortega, Frederick

Sr. WW Conveyance System Monitor
Conveyance

Ramage, Karen

Sr. Program Manager
Capacity Management
(September 2007 Promotion)

***Spears, Michelle**

Sr. Administrative Support Specialist

Roger Road

Retirements

None

***Reappointed**

***Von Rago, Lilian**

Reappointed from Development Services Department

***Orta, Kathy**

Reappointed from Facilities Management Department

***Spears, Michelle**

Reappointed from Library District

Deadline for Pipeline Submission

by Lorraine Simon

We appreciate the stories you submit for inclusion in the **Pipeline**. Please submit your stories and photos for the April edition to Lorraine.Simon@wwm.pima.gov, by Tuesday, April 1.

Answers to March Trivia

1. a. United States in 1762
2. a,b,c – All are correct
3. b. 2000
4. b. 1998
5. c. Arizona Diamondbacks and Chicago White Sox
6. a,b,c – All are correct
7. b. Four



**PIMA COUNTY
REGIONAL WASTEWATER
RECLAMATION DEPARTMENT**

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 3, 2008 @ Reid Park

E-RAP BBQ & Family Fun Day!
Food!! Music!! Entertainment!!!

Do you play the banjo, violin, harmonica, drums, etc???

Bring your instruments and jam at the park!

Can you tie balloons or do magic tricks??

How about face painting??

Share your talent!!!!

Family oriented softball games will be played, so get your husband, wife, significant others and the kids and come on out!!!!

More details closer to the date!

*Remember – Mark your calendar
for May 3!!*

