JOINT MEETING
1899
ESSEX & UNION COUNTIES

A newsletter of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, a wastewater treatment plant serving eleven member municipalities:

East Orange
Hillside
Irvington
Maplewood
Millburn
Newark
Roselle Park
South Orange
Summit
Union
West Orange

Also serving
Elizabeth
Livingston
Orange
New Providence

2000 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Chairperson, Newark
Ellen M. Davenport, Vice Chair/Secretary, Maplewood
Stephen Steglitz, Treasurer, South Orange

Members
Sal J. Bate, Millburn
Carol Y. Clark, East Orange
Lebby C. Jones, Irvington
John G. Kulish, Hillside
William E. Rosen, Summit
Linda Tancs, Roselle Park
John Skarbnik, West Orange
Anthony Terrezza, Union

Executive Director
Bryan J. Christiansen

JOINT MEETING NEWS

Fall 2000 Volume 5, Issue 2

Dechlorination Building Opens Sept. 2000



The Dechlorination Building (as seen at right) officially became operational in September 2000. This operation became necessary in order to meet the New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit.

The building is located at the west side of the aeration basins. It contains storage tanks for sodium bisulfite, chemical feed pumps and instrumentation. The process removes chlorine from the plant effluent, thus meeting the requirements of the law. It replaces the temporary one installed by Joint Meeting employees in July 1999. The interim operation was needed until the permanent facility became operational and also served to gather operational data needed for the design of the permanent facility.

Skarbnik Re-Appointed to Board

John Skarbnik of West Orange was selected to represent his township on the Joint Meeting board effective in July, 2000. John last served on the Joint Meeting Board of Directors in 1998. He was the only new board member to be seated in July of 2000.

As an accountant and lawyer, he brings an excellent background to the board of directors. He was selected to serve on two committees: the Operations Committee and the Public Relations Committee. Skarbnik replaced Hon. Anthony Benevento representing the Township of West Orange.

In addition, four board members were re-appointed by their respective municipalities. Hillside re-appointed Hon. John G. Kulish to a seat on the Joint Meeting board. The term of Hon. Lebby C. Jones of Irvington was also extended for another year.

Hon. Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins of Newark was re-appointed to the board and serves also as its chairperson. Finally, the term of Hon. Stephen Steglitz, who also serves as the Treasurer for the Joint Meeting board, was extended.

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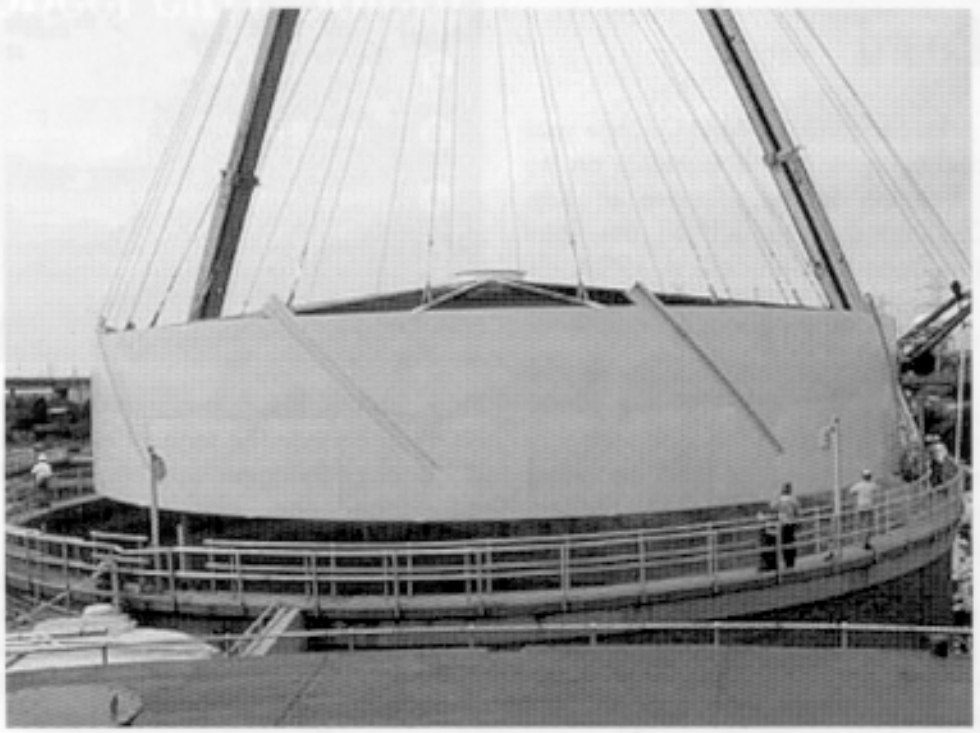
EMPLOYEE NEWS

Three Joint Meeting employees earned their S-2 licenses from the State of New Jersey: **Roger Marques**, Wastewater Treatment Operator in the Secondary Facility, and Team Supervisors **Pete Kaciupski** and **John McNamara**. Much praise to them for their fine efforts and accomplishment. . . . Congratulations to Boiler Operator **Ray Jones**, who was married on August 26, 2000 to Sharisa. Everyone wishes them many years of health and happiness. . . .Many Joint Meeting employees attended the Annual Technology Transfer Seminar on October 31, November 1st and 2nd at the Holiday Inn in Tinton Falls, New Jersey. It was sponsored by the New Jersey Water Environment Association. Topics covered were: the operation & maintenance of collection systems & wastewater treatment plant, industrial wastewater treatment, hazardous waste treatment, underground storage tank certification/recertification, disinfection for water & wastewater/O. & M., biosolids and maintenance. . . .**John Marci**, Environmental Officer in our Industrial Pretreatment Department, left Joint Meeting in September after 4 years with us. He is joining the Organon Company in West Orange. Best wishes to him as he embarks on a new endeavor. . . . Welcomes are in order for newcomers to Joint Meeting. In May, 2000, **Reneece Porter**, was hired as a Wastewater Treatment Operator. She lives in Union and brought with her operator experience from the U.S. Army and Pyro Installations Corporation based in the Military Ocean Terminal in Bayonne. . . .Also hired in May was a new Assistant Project Coordinator, **Eugene Lawson**, from Irvington. Gene has a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University. He worked for the Leaguers, Inc. in Newark, and was Director of the North Ward Center for the United Community Corporation, a Division of County & Municipal Government Services, where he worked in a management and supervisory capacity . . . .In June, **Phillip Thigpen** was hired as a Clerk in the Maintenance Department. Phil hails from East Orange and has had wide experience in government and the private sector. . . .**Andrea McElroy** was hired in July. She will be the Clerk in the Industrial Pretreatment Department. Andrea resides in Irvington. She was a business major at Richard Stockton College and has held varied administrative positions. . . . Best wishes for speedy recoveries for **Cathy Solano, Carlos Pinho**, and for former Board member **Christopher Hartwyk** from South Orange, all who have been on extended sick leave.



An aerial view of the placing of the cover on the newly converted Sludge Digester # 4.

Work was completed by REMSCO to convert Storage Tank # 3 to another digester now designated as Digester # 4. The digester became operational in November, 2000 with the filling of the digester with sludge.

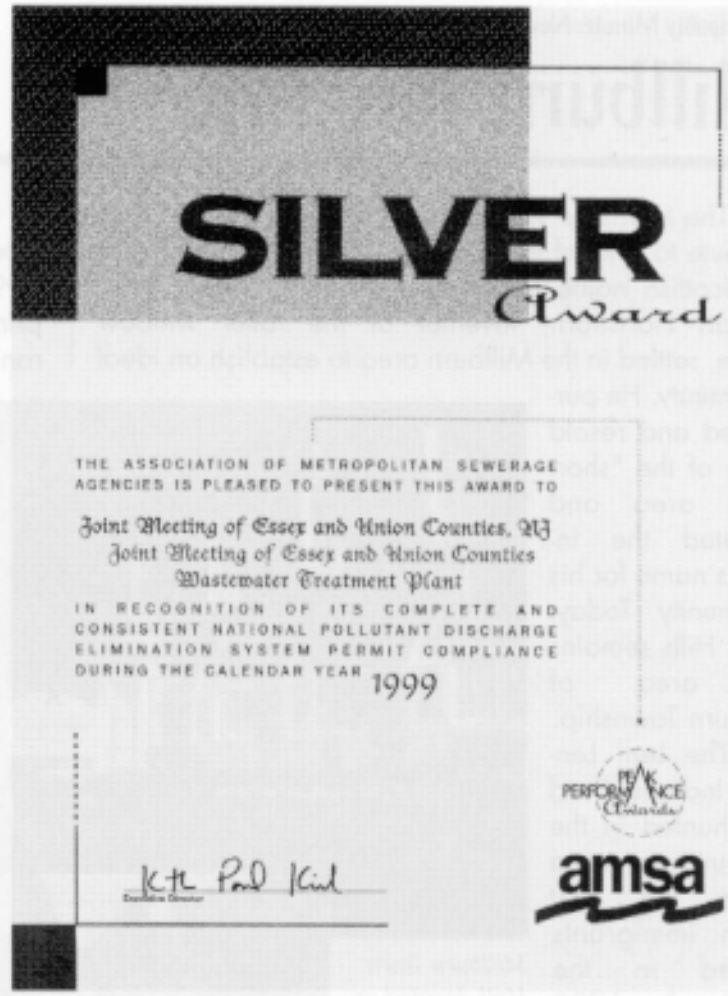
The additional digester will allow Joint Meeting to conduct periodic inspections and cleanings of the digesters without any impact on our process since there will always be three digester tanks in operational mode.

Joint Meeting Wins 7th Consecutive Silver Award

Joint Meeting has garnered its 7th consecutive Silver Award, which was presented by the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies. This award, which agencies are eligible for on an annual basis, recognizes those sewerage agencies for complying with their discharge permit requirements.

The award (shown at right) is for the year 1999. The award is in recognition of Joint Meeting's complete and consistent National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit compliance.

Congratulations must go to all of our employees in the operational units and in the maintenance departments whose day-to-day efforts are responsible for this achievement. The Board of Directors and management recognize that the employees deserve the appreciation and praise. Thanks to all employees involved in this effort. Keep up the great work.



Changes in Licensing Requirements

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has adopted changes to N.J.A.C. 7:10A, the licensing of water supply and wastewater treatment operators.

Among the more significant amendments is the requirement that licensed operators accumulate training hours to qualify for licensed renewal.

As of October 1, 2000, all licensed operators shall begin to accumulate Training Contact Hours (TCH's). On October 1, 2003, licensed operators shall demonstrate that they have completed the required number of TCH's.

Operators should know that 1 C.E.U. equals 10 Training Contact Hours. (0.5 CEU's converts to 5 TCH's.)

The TCH requirements for various licenses are:

License Classification	Training Contact Hours
3 and 4	36
CN, NS, NN, 1 and 2	18
VSWS	12

All licensed operators are encouraged to attend courses sponsored by the NJWEA in order to maintain their licenses. Interested operators should contact Joseph Bonaccorso, Plant Superintendent, and the Chairman of the NJWEA Education Committee, to obtain information.

Millburn Township

The township was named "Millburn" in 1857 as a tribute to a local mill on a stream with "burn" being the Scottish name for "stream." Shortly after 1870, Stewart Hartshorn, inventor of the roller window shade, settled in the Millburn area to establish an ideal community. He purchased and resold much of the "short hills" area and adopted the Indian's name for his community. Today, Short Hills remains an area of Millburn Township.

The Leni Lenape Indians lived and hunted in the Millburn area when the first Dutch immigrants arrived in the 1600s. By 1700 the English arrived. By 1764, the community numbered more than 60 landowners.



Millburn Town Hall, located on Main Street, above.

Until 1857 the settlement had no individual identity; it was part of the City of Springfield. Samuel Campbell of Scotland built the first paper mill and many others soon followed. The Morris and Essex railroad built in 1837 aided both the growth of industry as well as added many wealthy residents from Newark and New York.

The Wyoming Land Development Company purchased large tracts of land and laid out a grid of streets. By 1907, Millburn had a police and fire department, running water, electricity, telephones and a sewer system.

After World War II, a second population surge occurred with an increase in residents and businesses. Supermarkets, insurance companies, some small industries and the Mall at Short Hills became integral parts of the community.

Millburn is a beautiful residential community located in the southwestern corner of Essex County. The 1990 population was 18,630. The town consists of primarily single family homes. The school system has ranked in the top 3 school districts in the state. Schools have national ranking as having one of the most academically challenging school systems in the country.

A wide variety of recreational programs are offered including a community pool, and a Par 3 Golf Course. In addition, Millburn has many fine restaurants, a movie theatre, the Hilton Short Hills, a wide variety of cultural events including the Paper Mill Playhouse, the Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary and the upscale Mall at Short Hills



A view of the Main Street shopping district in Millburn.

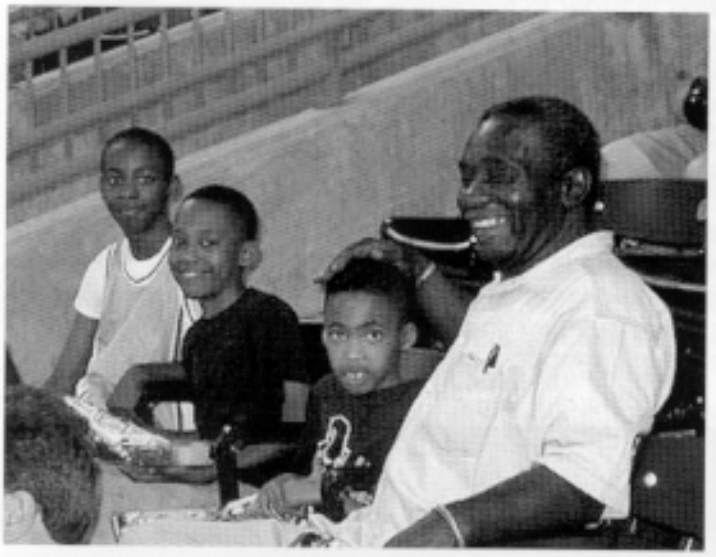
Since its incorporation as a municipality in 1857, the Township has operated under the Township Committee form of government. The Township Committee consists of five members elected to staggered three-year terms. Each January, one member is selected to serve as chairperson for 1 year; that person also serves as Mayor.

The current Mayor is Elaine Becker. The Deputy Mayor is Thomas McDermott. The three Committeepersons are Mary McNett, Linda Z. Seelbach and Joint Meeting Board member Sal J. Bate. The day-to-day operations of the government are managed by the Business Administrator, Timothy P. Gordon. The Municipal Clerk is Ann Marie McCarthy.

Our thanks to June E. Hercek, Assistant Business Administrator of Millburn, who graciously provided the information used in this article on the Township of Millburn.

EMPLOYEES VISIT BEAR'S GAME

Vincent Makfinsky and his wife, Mary, were the stars during the employee trip to the Newark Bear's game on June 22, 2000. The good news is that the Makfinsky's set a stadium record for the most water balloons pitched and hit. The bad news is that the Bears lost the game 10-8 to the Long Island Ducks in Atlantic League action.



Boiler Operator Clyde Lauderdale, pictured above, enjoying the Bear's game with cousins Myron, Jamie and Isaiah. Despite the Newark Bear's loss 10-8 to the Long Island Ducks, they enjoyed the game.

During one of the team's fan activities, the Makfinskys were selected to compete against another couple to see how many water balloons could be broken. Mary pitched the balloons and Vinnie batted them. They set a stadium record by breaking 48 balloons in 2 minutes. That placed them in the semi-finals to win Bruce Springsteen tickets. Another couple won, but they walked away with 2 free tickets to another Bear's game.

By the way, Ozzie Canseco, Jose Canseco's brother, hit a home run, but it wasn't enough to beat the Long Island Ducks. Elvis, Greg T the frat boy, and Mr. Bell from New York radio station Z100 sat behind Joint Meeting employees and added some spice to a fun night.



Lab Supervisor, Vincent Makfinsky, with his niece Kelly in the front row at the Newark Bear's game. Behind him, left to right, are Jack Kennedy, Ralph LaMendola and Bob Sforza.

SAFETY RECORD EXTENDED TO 1,810 DAYS

The record for no lost time accidents continues for three areas of the plant. The Boiler Department, Industrial Pretreatment Department and the Administrative Offices have gone 1,810 consecutive days (as of November 1, 2000) without an accident.

This represents the lengthy period of approximately 4.9 years. This is a credit to all of the employees in these departments and it means employees in these departments are working smarter and are extremely safety conscious.

We encourage all employees to continue their fine work. Joint Meeting's safety record over the years has been great and has continually improved. Congratulations to all employees for their efforts.

REMINDER

The New Open Enrollment Period for group health insurance under the NJ State Health Plan has been changed. It will now be in the month of September of each year, not in March as in previous years.

The effective date of the changes will be January 1st of each year.

All changes will be on a calendar year basis.

Board Committees 2000

The Board of Directors standing committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2000 are:

Operations Committee
Chair: William E. Rosen
Sal J. Bate
Carol Y. Clark
John H. Skarbnik

Public Relations Committee
Chair: Carol Y. Clark
Sal J. Bate
William Rosen
John H. Skarbnik

Finance & Budget Committee
Chair: Stephen A. Steglitz
Lebby C. Jones
John G. Kulish
Anthony Terrezza

Personnel & Procurement Committee
Chair: Lebby C. Jones
Ellen M. Davenport
John G. Kulish
Anthony Terrezza

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Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties
Wastewater Plant & Administrative Offices
500 South First Street
Elizabeth, N.J. 07202
(908) 353-1313

Project Update

The work was completed on the conversion of Storage Tank # 3 to the 4th Digester. The work was done by Remsco, who did the work on the rehabilitation of the Sludge Digester Tank # 1 and Storage Tank # 1. A new cover was installed and a new mixing system was added. The start-up took place in the late fall of 2000. Work is continuing on improvements to the Screenhouse Building in order to modernize the facility.





Conveyors will be replaced and new drives will be installed. The demonstration test period will begin for the Sludge Drying Facility late in 2000. The goal is to improve the quality of the pellets that are created in the Sludge Drying Facility. Stord, the equipment manufacturer, is in the process of completing modifications necessary to improve the facility operation. A bid is being prepared for work to improve the final clarifiers. Work is expected to be performed in 2001 with a goal toward improving the suspended solids and improving performance, to replace the influent feed gates and to replace the walkways.



Boiler Department employees have a record of nearly 5 years working without a lost time accident. From left to right are Boiler Operator Tom Ksepka, Supervisor Adolph Kofman and Boiler Operator Jim Whalen. Boiler Operators Ray Jones, Joe Ratz and Clyde Lauderdale are not pictured.

Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

Executive Director	*Bryan J. Christiansen*
Chief Engineer	*Ralph LaMendola, P.E.*
Plant Superintendent	*Joseph Bonaccorso*
Director of Administration and Finance	*Gary Restivo*
Director of Human Resources	*Richard Cirlincione*
Pretreatment Coordinator	*Cathy Martinson*
Project Coordinator	*Steve Dowhan*
Purchasing Officer	*Robert Sforza*
Assistant Board Secretary/Financial Assistant	*Patricia Rufolo*
Assistant Superintendent - Operations/Maintenance	*Jack Kennedy*
Safety Officer	*Terry Cole-Kelly*