JOINT MEETING

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

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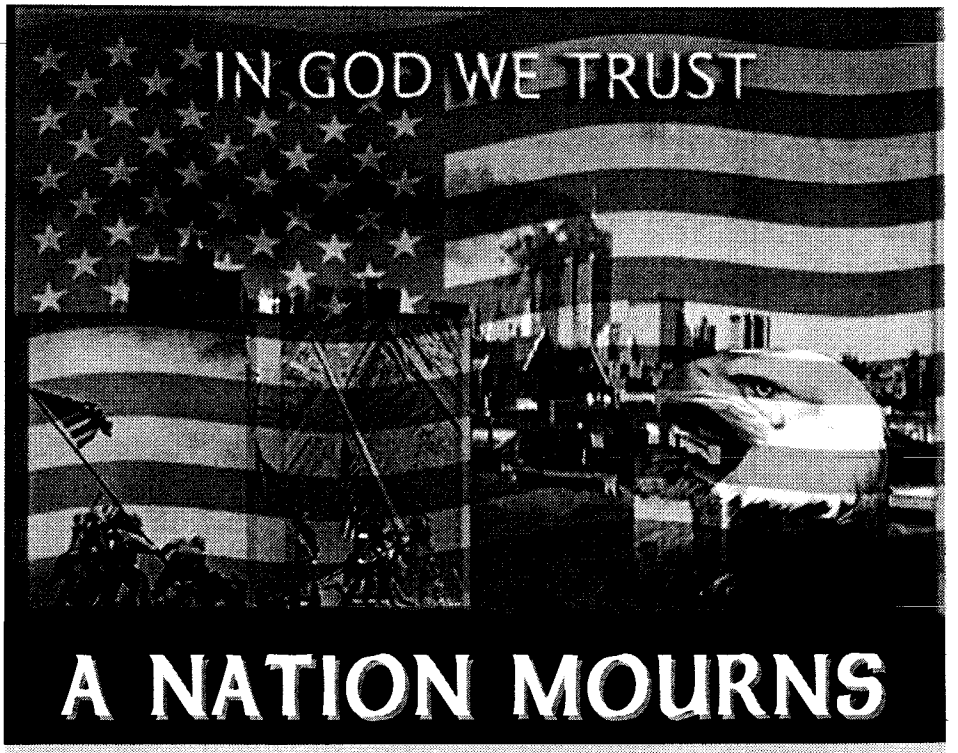
JOINT MEETING NEWS

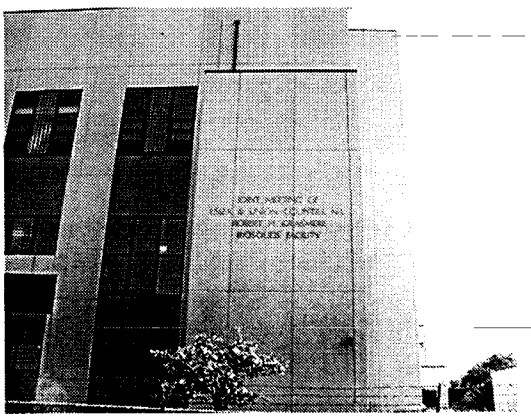
Fall 2001 Volume 6, Issue 2



A NATION MOURNS

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, we wish to extend our sympathy to the families of all those who perished in the terrorist attack on America and to the victims who are fighting for survival. Our gratitude to the police, fire, rescue squad, Red Cross and numerous volunteers who have risked their lives in the rescue effort.

Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, Chairperson



A view of the Biosolids Facility, which houses the dryer and dewatering facilities. More on the start-up of the Sludge Drying Facility on page 4.

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EMPLOYEE NEWS

Our Operations Department welcomed five new wastewater treatment operators since June of this year. In addition, three new laboratory technicians and two boiler operators have been hired during 2001. **Dan Comerie** was hired as a wastewater treatment operator. He hails from the City of Plainfield and had worked for Fidelity Chemical Company in Newark. Dan is married and the father of two children..... In June 2001 **Aron Harris** was hired as a wastewater treatment operator. Aron resides in Jersey City. He served as a sergeant in the United States Marines Corps and he is currently assigned to the Biosolids Facility..... Other wastewater treatment operators hired this year were **Julio Cabrera, Alvah Steele** and **David Friedland**. Julio is from Morristown, New Jersey; he has completed an introductory course in wastewater treatment and possesses a low pressure boiler license..... Alvah Steele lives in Newark, New Jersey and has been assigned to the Sludge Handling Facility..... David Friedland had been employed by P. S. E. & G.; he has an N-2 license and a blue seal boiler license; he lives with his family in South Plainfield..... **Jenny Liming** is one of three new laboratory technicians hired this year. Jenny graduated from Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and was previously employed by the New Jersey Marine Sciences Consortium..... Other new lab techs hired were **Karen Fahy** and **David Vieira**. Karen is married and had worked for Aqua Survey, Inc. and the New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife prior to coming to Joint Meeting in September, 200..... David Vieira worked at OMG Fidelity in Newark; he is married and is the 3rd new lab tech hired this year..... The Department of the Air Force activated **Don Heminghaus**, our utility wastewater operator for a brief stint; Don is a sergeant in the 514th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron and served stateside..... Congratulations to **Roger Marques** on his promotion from wastewater operator to Team Supervisor in the Operations Department in July of this year; Roger has earned his S-2 license and has been with Joint Meeting for 8 years..... Congratulations are also in order for **Vincent Makfinsky**, Laboratory Supervisor and **Mike Phillips**, Laboratory Technician; both recently passed their tests and earned S-2 licenses..... And also congratulations to **Bob Sforza**, Purchasing Officer, who has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Governmental Purchasing Association of New Jersey. **Tim Walker** and **Bob Leskin** were hired in August as boiler operators. Tim is from Bayonne, New Jersey and brings with him experience as a mechanic and boiler operator with a high pressure black seal boiler license..... Bob lives in Linden, New Jersey and had worked as a mechanic and boiler operator with the Campbell Soup Company; he has a blue seal boiler license..... Congratulations to **Jenny Liming** who will be married on November 16, 2001 to Matthew Wilson. Mr. Wilson is employed as a naturalist at Kateri Environmental Center..... Our prayers and very best wishes to **Ziggy Szczesny**, Electrician, as he recovers from an illness and to **Nelson Baesa**, Wastewater Operator, as he is recovering from an operation..... Congratulations to **Pete Kaciupski**, Team Supervisor in the Operations Department, who recently became a grandfather. His daughter, Nicole Rae, gave birth to a baby girl, Olivia Lynn, on September 7, 2001 at 5:26 a.m.



Pictured above are Joint Meeting's three newly hired laboratory technicians, from left to right, Jenny Liming, David Vieira and Karen Fahy.

Borough of Roselle Park

Roselle Park was first occupied by a subtribe of the Leni Lenape Indians, the Raritans or Wawitane. Later the Dutch and then the English colonized the Union County area in the 1600s. The first record of settlement was by Samuel Williams in 1700; this land was called "Williams Farms."

Revolutionary War scouts traveled along Galloping Hill Road carrying messages between George Washington and Governor Livingston. Skirmishes took place along what today is Colonial Road.

The 1830s saw a rapid growth of residential and commercial development, primarily due to the installation of railroads in the community. The Chestnut Street stop was named in honor of the railroad president's good friend, John Pierre Roselle.



The Roselle Park Municipal Complex on Westfield Avenue is shown above. The office of Mayor Joseph DeIorio, a Joint Meeting board member, is located in this complex.

The area became known as North Roselle in the late 1800s and by 1901, Roselle Park became incorporated. A sewer system and a post office was constructed and the mapping, numbering and naming of streets was begun. Charles Stone's grocery store became the first store in the world lighted by electricity, wired by Thomas Edison, in the mid-1890s.

The Borough Hall was built on Chestnut Street in 1915. It housed the Fire and Police Departments as well as the administrative offices and a courtroom. Talkie movies were also shown in a theatre on the top floor! In 1992, the town hall was relocated to its present East Westfield Avenue location.

In 1913 the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Station was located in the Aldene section. This wireless equipment was valuable to war communications during World War I. The first regularly broadcast radio station, WDY, was located at that site in 1921. Eddie Cantor made his radio debut in Roselle Park over WDY.

The Borough of Roselle Park is governed by an elected Mayor and six Councilpersons, five from wards and one elected at-large. The Mayor is elected to a four-year term and Councilpersons are elected to three-year terms. Hon. Joseph Delorio, the Mayor, also serves as a representative on the Joint Meeting Board of Directors, Hon. Bob Milici represents the 1st Ward, Hon. Ricky Badillo, 2nd Ward, Hon. Sam V. D'Errico, 3rd Ward, Hon. Linda Tancs, 4th Ward, Hon. Melanie Selk, 5th Ward, and Hon. Phyllis L. Mirabello is an at-large councilwoman.

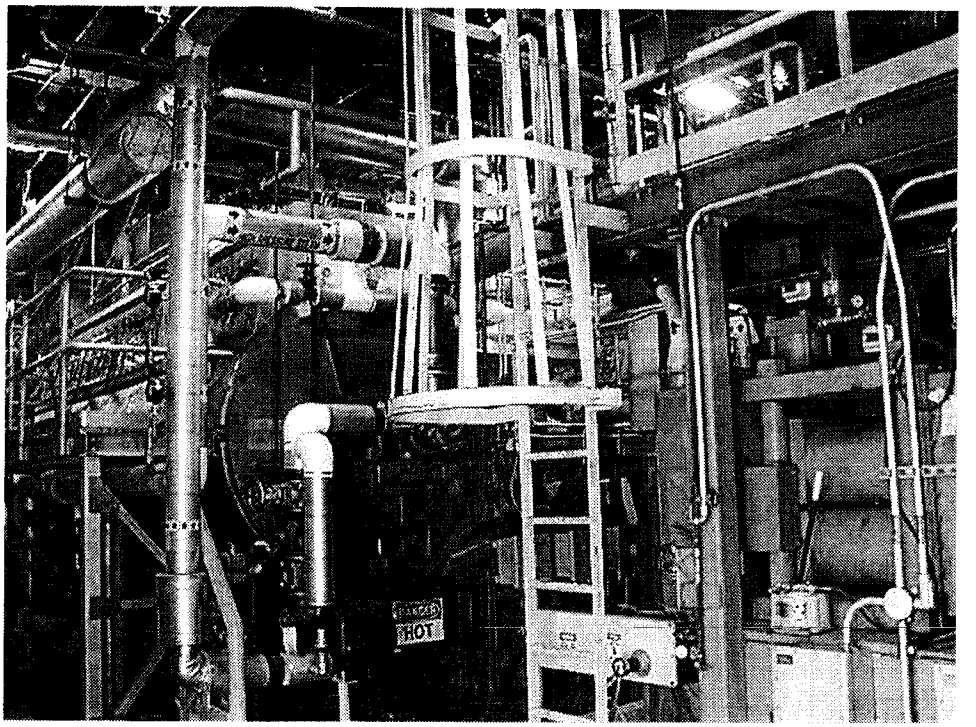
During this year, 2001, Roselle Park celebrates its 100th Anniversary. The borough continues its original tradition as a community with many volunteers and many organizations which all help to contribute to a better community.

Borough of Roselle Park

Population	12,731 (est.)
Area	1.3 square miles
Schools	1 high school, 1 middle & 3 elementary schools
Housing Units	5,231
Form of government	Mayor and Council
Median age	35.2 years
Labor force	7,542 (est.)

Thanks to the municipal clerk's office in the Borough of Roselle Park for providing the background data for this article.

Plant News



On October 10, 2001, the Sludge Drying Facility officially started-up. Pictured above is one of the dryers which is part of the process which pellitizes the biosolids.

On August 27, 2001 Joint Meeting signed an agreement with Atlas-Stord finalizing Joint Meeting's purchase of the Sludge Drying Facility. The start-up began in October, 2001 and the Drying Facility will be running five days a week.....The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection issued a new residuals permit effective October 1st to operate the Drying Facility.....Baffles were installed at the final clarifiers in the summer of this year.....By the end of 2001, work will begin at the aeration tanks to make repairs to the walkways around the tanks..... Hilt Construction of Elizabeth, New Jersey is installing new windows in the screen house as well as painting the walls and floors; they are also installing new windows and upgrading the exterior of the Primary Service Building..... Future projects at the Joint Meeting will be improvements to the sludge thickener facility and replacement of the thickener centrifuges with gravity belt thickeners.

Proposals were submitted to Joint Meeting in October for the co-generation project which will get under way in 2002. Currently, Joint Meeting produces approximately 30% of its own electricity using methane gas, which is a by-product of our digester process. Under this new plan, the goal is to produce up to 100% of our own electricity using the methane gas as a fuel to produce the electricity.

New Jersey Environmental Trust Fund

Joint Meeting member municipalities have the option of financing their 2002 capital assessment or a portion thereof through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust.

The Trust allows for long-term financing of capital costs of the Joint Meeting at a reduced rate of interest, which is approximately one-half the interest cost of a municipal bond issuance.

The preparation of the documents required in order to utilize the Trust results in increased costs to the Joint Meeting, and consequently, to its members. But the additional costs would be offset by the reduced cost of borrowing these funds through the Trust.

Member municipalities will be provided with a cost analysis that will demonstrate the savings to participants in this program when compared to individual financings by those municipalities on a tax-exempt basis.

The members will then be asked to make a determination by year end as to whether or not they intend to participate in this program.

The Joint Meeting has already submitted the necessary commitment letter and planning document to the Trust. These documents reserve a place in the Trust's 2002 financing plans, but do not bind any of the member municipalities to participate. The City of Elizabeth, which sends sewage to the Joint Meeting by contract, has already committed to participate in the program.

Later this year, the Board of Directors of the Joint Meeting will have to consider a resolution authorizing the Joint Meeting to proceed with the preparation and submission of the interested member's documentation to the Trust.

New Regulations Increase Pension Benefits

A new law, Chapter 133, P.L. 2001, changes the formula for the calculation of retirement benefits for most types of retirement for PERS. The law also provides for an equivalent increase in retirement benefits for most members already retired.

For those retiring October 1, 2001 and later under a Service Retirement, Early Retirement or Deferred Retirement, the calculation formula will change as shown below:

Retirements Prior to 10/01/01

$$\frac{\text{Yrs. of service}}{60} \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{Max. Annual Allowance}$$

Retirements 10/01/01 and Beyond

$$\frac{\text{Yrs. of service}}{55} \times \text{Final Average Salary} = \text{Max. Annual Allowance}$$

"Service" means years of service credit in the pension plan. "Final Average Salary" means the salary on which pension contributions were based in the three years immediately preceding your retirement or the three highest fiscal years of salary, whichever provides the higher benefit.

The change in formula will result in a 9.09% increase in retirement allowance for these types of retirement. This change in calculation is a permanent change to the calculation formula, not a limited-time change. There is no change in the Service Retirement age. Members must still be at least 60 to qualify for a Service Retirement.

The law also changes the formula for calculating a Veteran Retirement for those military veteran members who have 35 or more years of service credit in the pension plan. The calculation formula will change as follows:

Retirements Prior to 10/01/01

$$\frac{\text{Yrs. of service}}{60} \times \text{Final Year's Salary} = \text{Max. Annual Allowance}$$

Retirements 10/01/01 and beyond

$$\frac{\text{Yrs. of service}}{55} \times \text{Final Year's Salary} = \text{Max. Annual Allowance}$$

Another change in the pension law grants veterans with 35 or more years of service the ability to retire at age 55 instead of 60 years old.

Important New Jersey Pension Telephone Numbers

Office of Client Services	609-292-7524
Benefit Information Library	609-777-1931
Automated Information System (loan, account history, purchase estimates)	609-777-1777
Directions to Pension Division	609-984-7109

New Retirement Payment Options

A new law, Chapter 120, P.L. 2001, provides PERS members with four additional options to leave a benefit to a beneficiary. Under the new options, when a member dies after retirement the member's beneficiary would receive a lifetime monthly allowance equal to 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% of the member's retirement allowance. Unlike existing options 2, 3 and 4, under the new options, the member's retirement allowance increases to the Maximum Option if the member's beneficiary dies before the member.

Those already collecting a retirement allowance cannot change their option selection. However, members who have filed an Application for Retirement Allowance and have not yet been paid their first pension check may select one of the new options.

Anyone who desires additional information concerning pension questions should visit the State of New Jersey web page or contact the New Jersey Division of Pensions in Trenton.

For further pension information, check the pension web page: www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions

Board Committees 2001

The Board of Directors standing committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2001 are:

Operations Committee
Chair: William E. Rosen
Carol Y. Clark
Joseph Delorio
Gerard W. Ryan

Public Relations Committee
Chair: Carol Y. Clark
Sal J. Bate
William E. Rosen
Gerard W. Ryan

Finance & Budget Committee
Chair: Sal J. Bate
Joseph Delorio
Allan Rosen
Anthony Terrezza

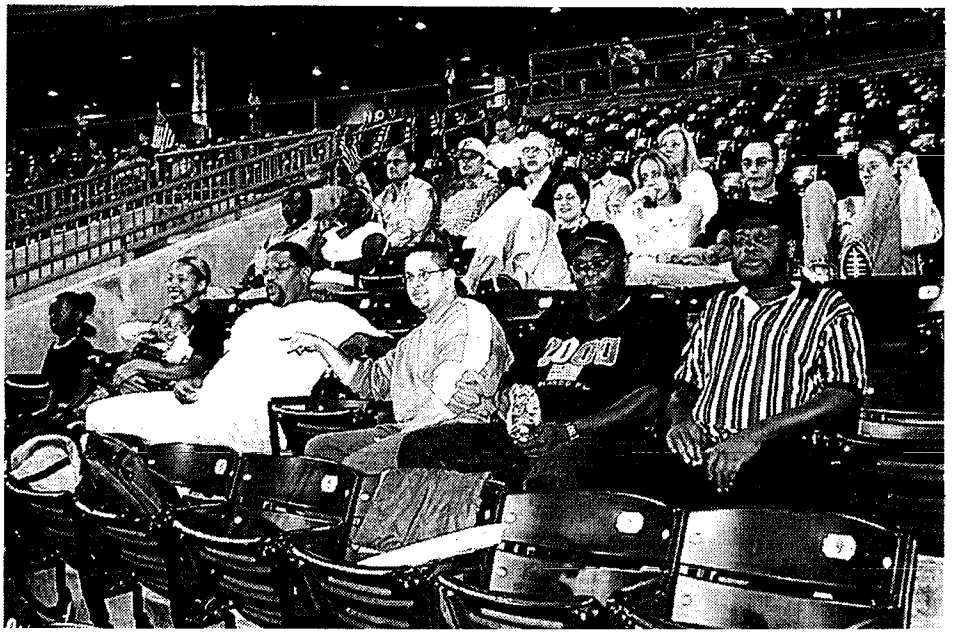
Personnel & Procurement Committee
Chair: Lebby C. Jones
John G. Kulish
John H. Skarbnik
Anthony Terrezza

JOINT MEETING

ESSEX & UNION COUNTIES

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

Employee Trip To Newark Bears Game



Thirty-eight Joint Meeting employees and friends made what has become an annual trip to see a Newark Bears baseball game on September 18, 2001. It was a beautiful night for a ballgame. Although the Bears lost to their hottest rival, the Somerset Patriots, 1-0 in 11 innings, the Bears were well on their way to the league playoffs.

Employees and their guests enjoyed box seats behind home plate and plenty of food and fun. Joint Meeting employees with their families and friends enjoy the ballgame in the photograph above.

- New -

Our Employee Assistance Program is now administered by Community Care Alliance Corp.

1-877-203-CARE (2273)

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*