JOINTMEETING NEWS

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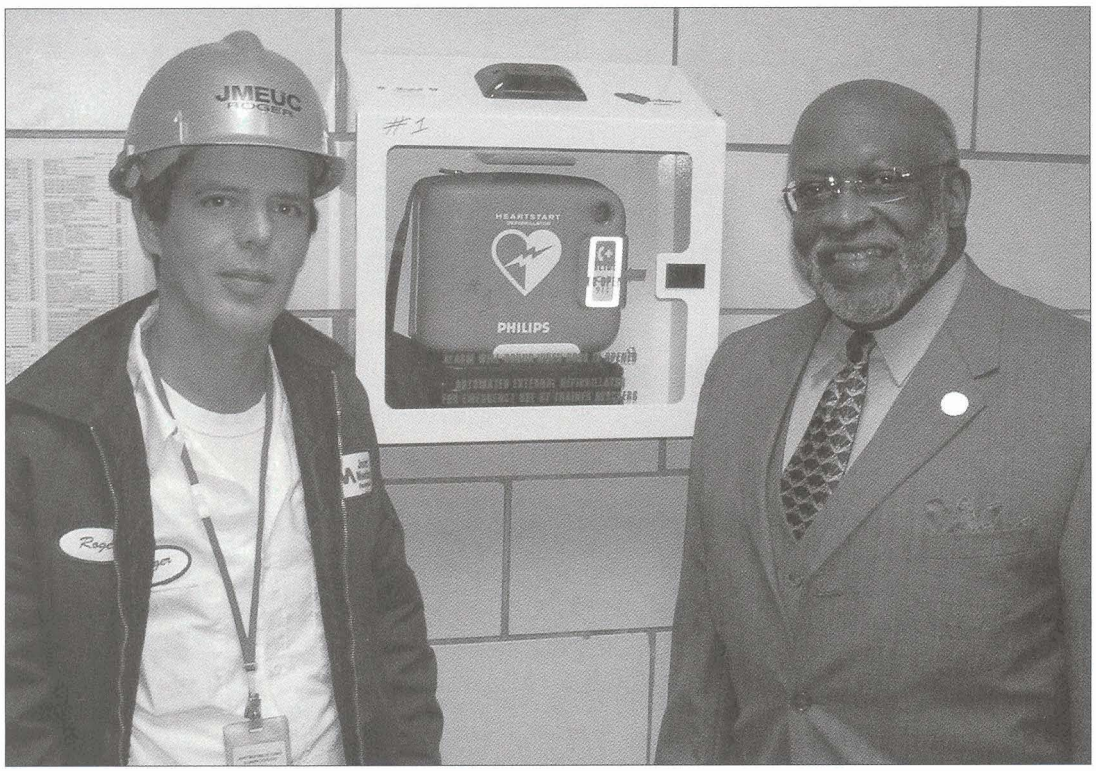

Joint Meeting Acquires Two Defibrillators

Operations Team Supervisor **Roger Marques**, on the left, and Executive Director **Samuel T. McGhee** with one of the agency's two new defibrillators, which were purchased as an additional safety measure for employees to prevent deaths by cardiac arrest. See full story on page 5.

Upcoming Events

December 1, 2005. New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Exhibitor's Night & Beefsteak Dinner at Amalgamated Meat Cutter's Hall, Little Falls, NJ. Open to all NJWEA members.

March 7-9, 2006. New Jersey Water Environment Association Technology Transfer Seminar at Holiday Inn, Tinton Falls, NJ. For wastewater operators and facility staff to earn licensing credits and to update skills.

May 1-5, 2006. New Jersey Water Environment Association Annual Conference & Exhibition at the Tropicana Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ. Workshops for operations, maintenance and laboratory employees. Contact Superintendent Joseph Bonaccorso if you wish to attend.

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
New Providence
Orange

2005 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers
Anthony Terrezza
Chairman, Union
Lebby C. Jones
Vice Chair/Secretary, Irvington
Allan J. Rosen
Treasurer, South Orange

Members
Sal J. Bate, *Millburn*
Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins, *Newark*
P. Kelly Hatfield, *Summit*
Jacquelyn E. Johnson, *East Orange*
Kevin J. Murphy, *Roselle Park*
Robert Parisi, *West Orange*
Kenneth A. Pettis, *Maplewood*
Joseph Pinckney, *Hillside*

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

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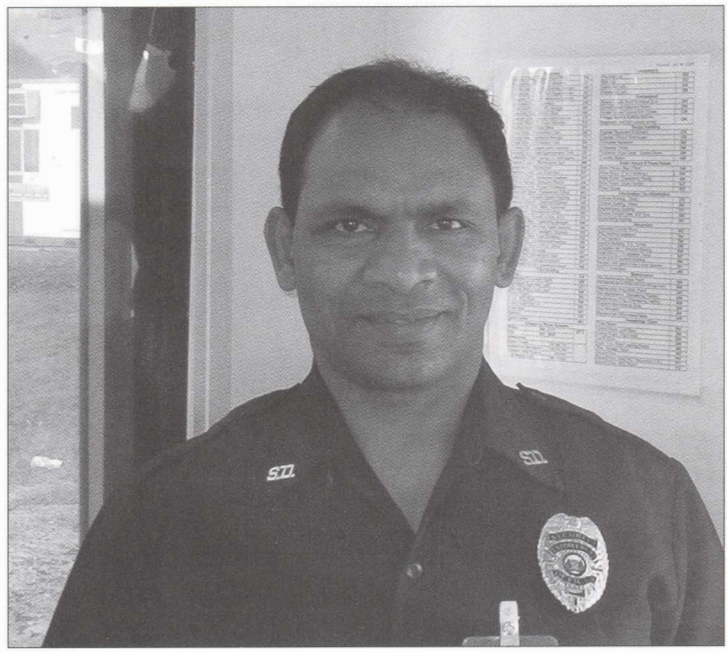
Employee News

Rudy Johnson was hired in June, 2005 as a security guard to work with **Jeff Kutakoff**, who mans the front gate at Joint Meeting. Both individuals serve in alternate shifts as front gate security for the Joint Meeting facility in Elizabeth. Rudy is from Guyana and resides in Irvington with his wife and three children. He brings with him security guard experience from Irvington General Hospital and from two security agencies. Jeff, a former Site Services Worker, took over the front gate duties after the events on 9/11 and recently successfully bid into the newly created security guard position.

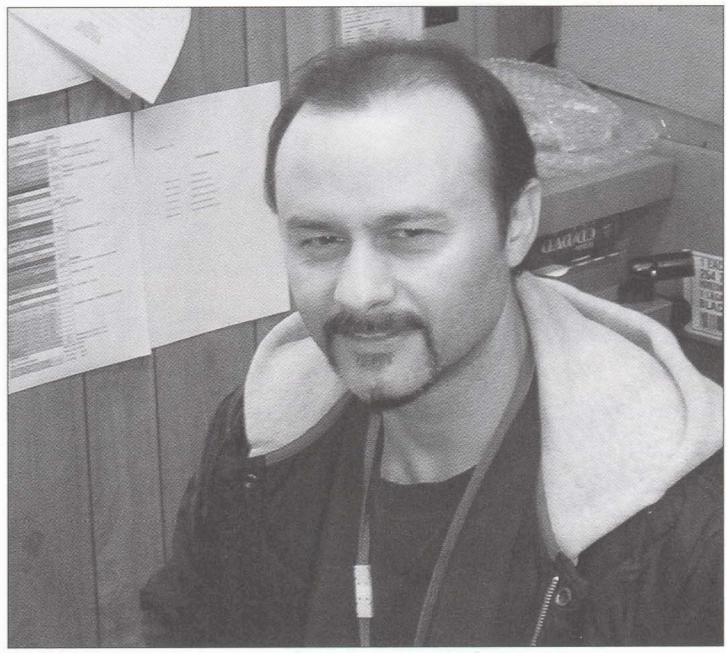
Congratulations to **Eric Sanabria** and his wife Leanne. Leanne gave birth to their first child, a girl, Sophia Leanne Sanabria, on August 11, 2005. The beautiful baby was six pounds, fifteen ounces. We wish the couple all of the joys and happiness with their new addition.

Ray Jimenez was hired in June 2005 to replace Ian Laux, who moved to Florida. Ray is the Information Technology Manager responsible for all I.T. systems and phone systems. He has more than 15 years of computer experience and is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. Ray lives with his wife and two children in Dunellen . . . In the Site Services Department, **Devlon Phillips** was hired in August 2005. Devlon earned experience working for a construction company in Union prior to coming to Joint Meeting. He and his family reside in Newark . . . In the Operations Department, three new wastewater operators were hired: **Ed Pochepka**, **Eugene Rivera** and **Juan Otero**. Ed came to Joint Meeting in May 2005. He was a long time Elizabeth resident who now resides in Edison. Ed had worked as a chemical operator for various companies including Exxon and I.F.F . . . Eugene joined our agency in May also. He was employed with several chemical companies in Newark, and lives with his wife and two children in nearby Linden . . . Juan hails from North Bergen and was an operator at North Bergen Municipal Utility Authority. He holds both S-1 and C-1 licenses.

Congratulations and the best of health and happiness from everyone at Joint Meeting to **Jim Whalen** who retired in June 2005. Jim was a wastewater operator and later a boiler operator for 15 years. He will be moving out of state and enjoying his family and his free time . . . and to **Natalie Dienst** who has joined our laboratory staff for the fall 2005 semester as part of her quest to complete her college degree. She will graduate in December 2005 with an Environmental Science degree from Thomas Edison State College. Welcome aboard!



Rudy Johnson was added to the security department in 2005. He is shown above wearing the new security guard uniform that was adopted by Joint Meeting for use at his suggestion earlier this year.



Shown above is **Ray Jimenez**, the new Information Technology Manager, who is responsible for overseeing Joint Meeting's computer network of more than 50 computers and the Window/Novell servers and other data processing devices.



Above and to the right, Superintendent of the Joint Meeting, **Joseph Bonaccorso**, poses with an engineering class from New York City's Columbia University during a July 2005 tour of the Joint Meeting wastewater treatment facility. Interested educators from universities and schools in the metropolitan area can contact Joseph Bonaccorso at 908-353-1313 to arrange for a class tour.



Ian Laux, Information Technology Director, resigned on June 17, 2005 after having served Joint Meeting for 10 plus years. Ian began as an automobile mechanic in 1994 and took over I.T. duties in March 2001. He has relocated to the enviable area of Key Largo, Florida and we are certain he will not look back. Ian is seen above at one of several parties given by Joint Meeting employees on and off site. One wonders whether Ian's vibes had anything to do with the busiest hurricane season in history hitting the Caribbean and Florida.

Joint Meeting Wins 3rd NACWA Gold

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies, formerly known as the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, has awarded the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties its Gold Award for the calendar year 2004. This is Joint Meeting's third Gold Award, having also won in 2001 and 2003. The award is given to sewerage agencies that have met one hundred percent total compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System requirements with no violations to their permit.

In addition to this honor, Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties has also attained nine Silver Awards beginning in 1993. The Silver Award recognizes facilities that have had fewer than five NJDEP permit violations in a calendar year. In the last 12 calendar years, Joint Meeting has earned nine Silver Awards and three Gold Awards.

Many thanks to Joint Meeting's employees, who deserve all of the credit. We want to acknowledge both operational and maintenance employees, who work day-in and day-out, maintaining a high degree of professionalism in their daily tasks. Without their spirit of cooperation and their strong work ethic, Joint Meeting would not be able to achieve this very high honor. Keep up the excellent work!

Plant News

Three new gravity belt thickeners were installed and placed into operation during the summer of 2005. This has resulted in significant improvements to the anaerobic digester operations and the sludge dewatering facility.

Work has begun on replacing the sludge cake pipelines running underground between the main building and the Truck Loading Station.

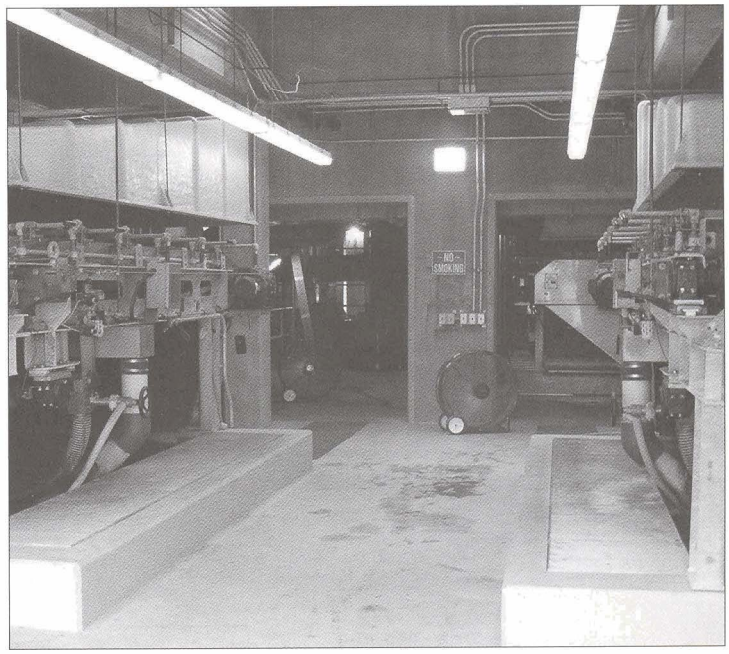
The selection of camera locations for remote monitoring of the plant treatment processes and for plant-wide security is currently underway. Once completed, the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems will be ready for public bidding and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval.

In the near future, a new HV system will be installed in the Thickener Annex and grating will be installed at the Screen house influent channels.

Plans are underway for the construction of a new building which will house a new laboratory and provide additional office space. It is currently in the design stage. Representatives of Schoor DePalma are working with their architect and Joint Meeting staff in the initial planning phase. The building will be located on the east side of the Pump and Office Building. The laboratory will be on the first floor, and the industrial pretreatment offices will be housed on the second floor. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2007.

The Co-Generation Project is in the design stages and the expected start-up will take place in the fall of 2007.

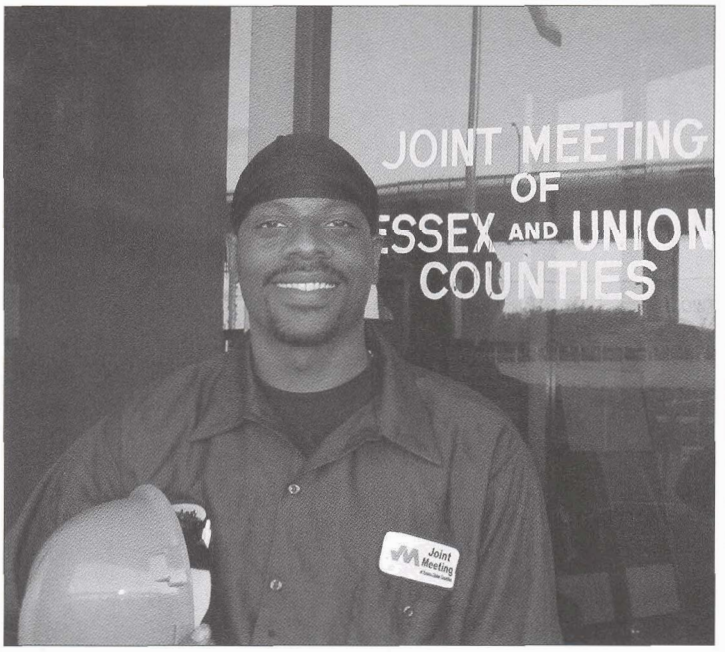
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Staten Island Railroad project is well under way on former Joint Meeting property and now adjacent to the lawn in front of the Pump and Office Building. Railroad tracks are being constructed which will skirt Joint Meeting property on its southern and western ends. Relocated Bayway Avenue is being rerouted to be located between Joint Meeting property and the railroad. The road is expected to be open for traffic in early 2006.



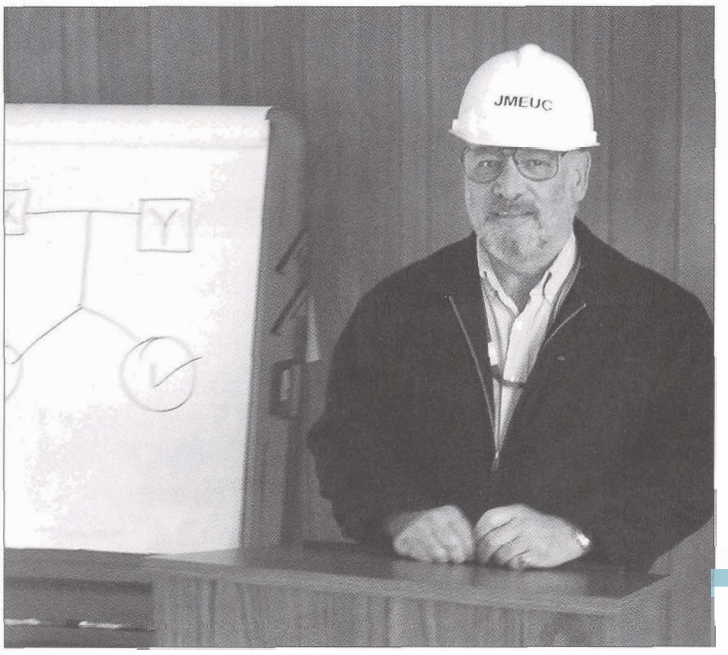
These gravity belts, shown above, replaced the thickening centrifuges and will be able to handle all of the sludge from the gravity thickeners in addition to reducing Joint Meeting's electrical demand.



From left to right are our three new wastewater treatment operators: **Ed Pochepka**, **Juan Otero** and **Eugene Rivera**. All three joined Joint Meeting during 2005 and have chemical and wastewater experience. Ed is assigned to the Sludge Handling Facility; Juan works in the Secondary Facility; and Eugene is a utility operator.



Our Site Services Department hired **Devlon Phillips** in the summer of 2005. Devlon joins supervisor Eric Sanabria and his work force of nine other Site Services employees. Welcome and good luck to Devlon in his new position.



A new training room was established in a portable trailer adjacent to the Pump and Office Building. Seen above is **Gary Restivo**, Director of Administration and Finance, at the podium of the training room. This marks the first time that Joint Meeting has ever been able to set aside adequate space and procure the necessary equipment for training its personnel.

Joint Meeting Buys Two Defibrillators

Joint Meeting purchased two defibrillators for its Elizabeth wastewater treatment facility. A defibrillator is a medical device that delivers an electrical impulse to a person's heart to correct an irregular heartbeat back to its normal beat. One device is located in the Primary Service Building mezzanine and one in the Pump and Office Building Lunchroom.

The American Heart Association estimates that 100,000 deaths could be prevented each year if defibrillators were more widely available. Each year 350,000 Americans die from out-of-hospital sudden cardiac arrest.

Maribell Associates in conjunction with the American Heart Association conducted training for twenty-four employees. Joint Meeting trained employees from various departments and shifts so that they would have certified personnel available in the event of an emergency.

The employees who were trained and certified are:

Tony Bongiorno
Carlos Cabral
Terry Cole-Kelly
Dan Comerie
John Crawley
Paul Cuttino
Alex Durand
Steve Feller
Craig Halloran
Don Heminghaus
Don Jantas
Pete Kaciupski
Roger Marques
Quentin Martin
Ed Patterson
Ed Pochepka
Reneece Porter
Mike Richardson
Eugene Rivera
Rick Stafford
Gary Tate
James Walker
Tim Walker
Roman Wisniewski

Many thanks to these employees who volunteered to be trained in order to assist their co-workers if needed.

Pinckney Joins Board of Directors

Hon. Joseph Pinckney of Hillside was selected by the Township of Hillside to serve as its representative on the Joint Meeting Board of Directors, effective in July 2005. He fills the seat on the board formerly held by Hon. Peter Corvelli.

Mr. Pinckney was also appointed by the Joint Meeting Board of Directors at the July meeting to serve on the Operations Committee and on the Ad Hoc Special Projects Committee.

In addition, **Hon. Jacqueline E. Johnson** of East Orange was appointed to the Finance and Budget Committee, replacing Mr. Corvelli. **Hon. Robert Parisi** was assigned from the Operations Committee to the Personnel and Procurement Committee to fill the seat of Mr. Corvelli.

Joint Meeting Employees Help Katrina Victims

Hurricane Katrina was a category five hurricane which hit the Central Gulf Coast near New Orleans on August 29, 2005. Its storm surge breached the levee system that protected New Orleans from Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River. Over one million people were displaced by the storm and the damage resulted in over 1,300 deaths and a cost of about $100 billion. The storm was the costliest natural disaster in the history of the United States.

Like many organizations throughout the United States, Joint Meeting employees did their share with a fundraiser. They raised $3,800 and donated it to the American Red Cross Katrina Relief Fund. Many employees had already contributed to the disaster relief efforts through their religious affiliations and through various social service agencies. Joint Meeting wishes to thank all of our employees who contributed to the fund and did their part in helping the citizens of that region.

The American Red Cross name and emblem are used with its permission, which in no way constitutes an endorsement, express or implied, of any product, service, company, individual or political position.

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Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

Wastewater Treatment Plant
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Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

Executive Director
Samuel T. McGhee

Deputy Executive Director/ Chief Engineer
Ralph LaMendola, P.E.

Superintendent
Joseph Bonaccorso

Director of Admin. and Finance
Gary Restivo

Director of Human Resources
Richard Cirlincione

Industrial Pretreatment Coordinator
Cathy Martinson

Sr. Project Manager
Stephen Dowhan

Purchasing Officer
Robert Sforza

Asst. Board Secr./Financial Asst.
Patricia Rufolo

Asst. Superintendent, Operations/Maintenance
Jack Kennedy

Asst. Superintendent, Collection System
Jim Paluch

Operations Manager
Alex Durand

Safety Officer
Terry Cole-Kelly

Board Committees 2005

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the second half of 2005 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: P. Kelly Hatfield
Sal J. Bate
Kevin J. Murphy
Joseph Pinckney

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Sal J. Bate
Kevin J. Murphy
P. Kelly Hatfield

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Allen J. Rosen
Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Lebby C. Jones
Kenneth A. Pettis

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Gayle H. Chaneyfield Jenkins
Lebby C. Jones
Robert Parisi
Allan J.Rosen