

JOINT MEETING NEWS

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Plans for New Laboratory Building Taking Shape

Above is an artist's rendering of the planned new laboratory and office building at Joint Meeting in Elizabeth. Construction is scheduled to begin by the end of 2006 with an expected completion date of mid-2008. The old lab site is very cramped and outdated. The existing lab site will be renovated to house maintenance shops and support personnel. See more on the new lab building under Plant News on page 4.

Upcoming Events

November 13-17, 2006. 91st Annual League of Municipalities Conference in Atlantic City, NJ, with workshops for municipal officials.

November 30, 2006. NJWEA North Jersey Section 12th Annual Beefsteak Dinner and Exhibitors' Night for NJWEA members and guests at Local 464 Hall, Little Falls, NJ.

July 17-20, 2007. National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 37th Annual Summer Conference in Cleveland, OH.



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

2006 Joint Meeting Board of Directors

Officers

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

Members

Dave A. Bomgaars, *Summit*
Richard Giuditta, *West Orange*
Jerome Jewell, *Hillside*
Jacquelyn E. Johnson, *East Orange*
Kathleen Leventhal, *Maplewood*
Richard Matarante, *Roselle Park*
Ronald C. Rice, *Newark*
Ellen Steinberg, *Millburn*

Executive Director

Samuel T. McGhee

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Employee News

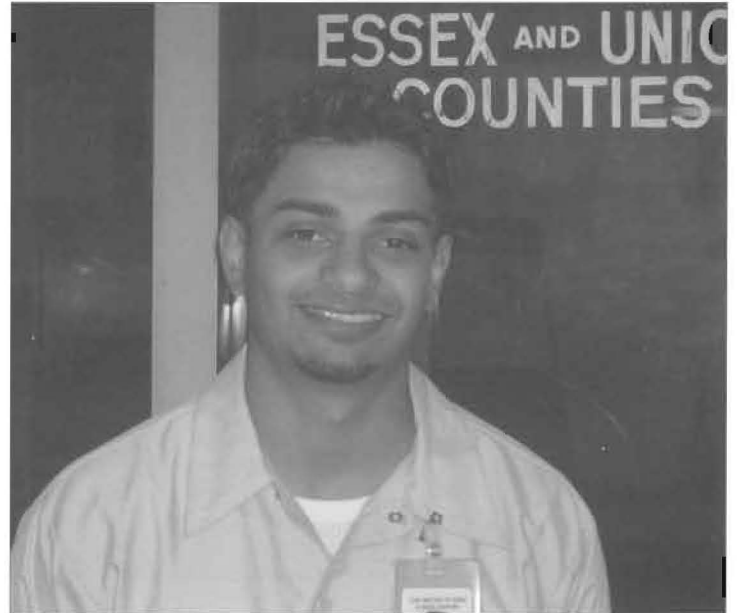
Joint Meeting welcomed three student interns to its ranks this year: **Camille Braker**, a business major and second-year student at Hampton University, worked in our laboratory and in our administrative offices during the summer. Her long-range plan is to study law and follow in her father's footsteps . . . **Miguel Foster**, a former football star at Union High School and a student at Lackawanna College, worked in our Site Services Department. Miguel was tight end for the Lackawanna College football team and is pursuing a career in business administration . . . And **Kurtis Chiappone**, who is studying at New Jersey City University, worked as an assistant to Ray Jimenez in the Information Technology Department. All three interns performed their job duties well and were a pleasure to have with us.

Our condolences to Susan Martin, the wife of our former employee, **Quentin Martin**, who died suddenly on July 4th. Quentin, a resident of Laurence Harbor, was a wastewater operator who most recently was assigned to Team 4 in the Secondary Facility. He was an avid hunter and was well liked; he will be missed by all who knew him.

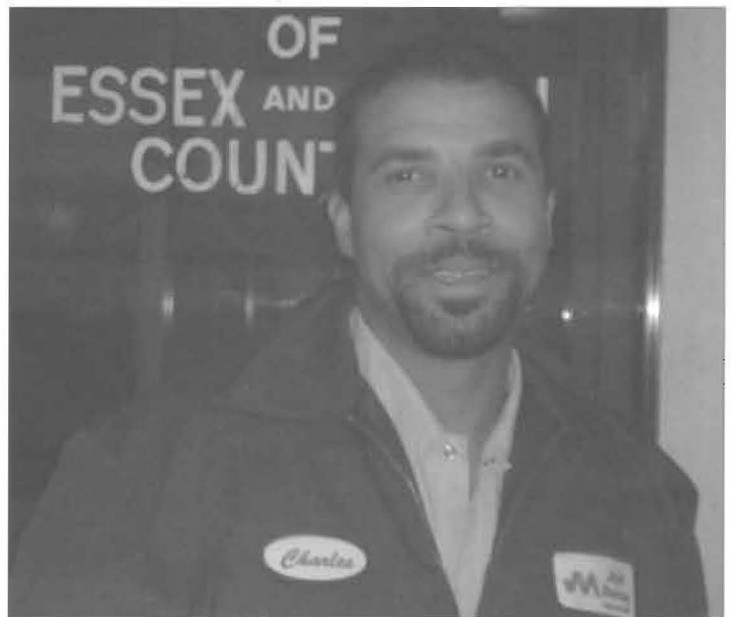
Two new wastewater treatment operators were hired in September to fill existing vacancies. **Charles Maree**, a resident of Plainfield, has extensive chemical operator experience. He possesses a high pressure black seal boiler license and attended Seton Hall University for three years in computer science . . . A second operator was also hired in September. He is **Adris Hariprasad**, who hails from Jersey City. He earned a certificate for Network Technician at the Chubb Institute and worked in the wastewater and collection fields prior to coming to Joint Meeting.

Congratulations go to **Keith Kilgore**, who successfully bid to a boiler operator position in August. Keith began with Joint Meeting as a wastewater operator in August 2002. An Elizabeth resident, he is a U.S. Navy veteran, a former chemical and boiler operator, and he possesses a blue seal boiler license . . . Congratulations to **Jack Kennedy**, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Maintenance, who received the T. William Cleveland Award earlier in 2006 for outstanding dedication and service to the New Jersey Water Environment Association-North Section. It was presented to him at the NJWEA-North Section's Annual Dinner Dance held at the Wayne Manor in March . . . Congratulations to **Devlon**

Phillips, Site Services Worker, who got married in May. Best wishes to his bride Tarnisha and to Devlon for many years of health and happiness together . . . Congratulations to **Steve Feller**, Operations Supervisor, for passing his S-4 licensing exam.



Adris Hariprasad is our new wastewater operator.



Charles Maree was hired in September as a new wastewater treatment operator.

Operator Trainee Program Adopted by Joint Meeting Board

At its June 2006 monthly meeting, the Joint Meeting Board of Directors approved a plan to establish a wastewater operator trainee program. This program is designed to hire and train up to five individuals to provide a good source of qualified wastewater treatment operators for future operational needs.

Trainees must attend and satisfactorily complete a one-year Introduction to Water and Wastewater Course and successfully complete all required in-house training, which includes training in the Dewatering, Primary, Secondary and Sludge Handling facilities. At that point, the

trainees would be eligible to bid for wastewater openings as they occur.

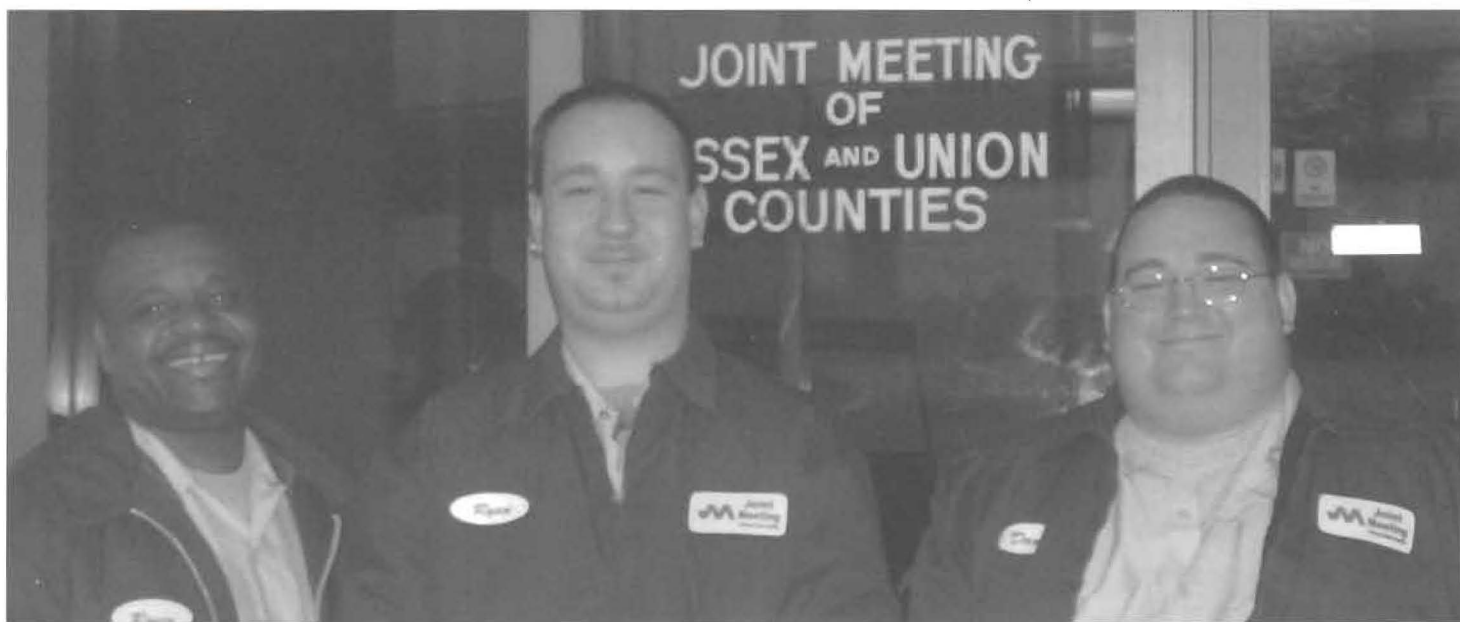
Trainees must also agree to remain employed with Joint Meeting for at least two years after the successful completion of the required training.

The first three operator trainees were hired in September 2006. They are **Dan O'Brien**, **Roscoe Scott** and **Ryan Gerhard**. Dan is single and resides in New Milford, New Jersey. Roscoe is married, and he and his wife Barbara have two children, Deirdre and

Roscoe, Jr. They make their home in Irvington. Ryan lives in Iselin with his wife Erin and daughter Brianna.

The trainee program was adopted by the Board due to the current difficulty in recruiting trained and qualified wastewater operators and because it is expected that some of our experienced operators will be retiring in the near future. By extending the training period beyond the current six-month period and by requiring trainees to attend a ten-month wastewater operator classroom training program on their own time, Joint Meeting is hopeful it will be able to staff future vacancies with better trained personnel.

Trainees will be eligible to bid on existing wastewater operator vacancies next June after they successfully complete their in-house training and operator course. And they will be fully reimbursed for the cost of tuition and books upon successful completion of the course. They also must make a commitment to remain employed with Joint Meeting for two years after the completion of the course. They would be eligible for group health insurance benefits as well as the pension program.



New operator trainees, from left to right, are **Roscoe Scott**, **Ryan Gerhard** and **Dan O'Brien**.

Plant News

Work will begin by the end of 2006 to upgrade three main sewage pumps, #2, #4 and #5, located on the pump room floor of the Pump and Office Building. The work will include the installation of new motors, shafts and impellers. New variable frequency drives (VFDs) will also be installed to match the pumps' speed to the incoming flow rate.

A new computer control system will be installed for all five main sewage pumps. The entire job is expected to take twelve to fifteen months. The contractor is Remsco Northeast Construction who has worked on numerous past construction projects at the Joint Meeting. The engineering firm is CME Associates.

A major project to rehabilitate the Joint Meeting bulkhead along the Arthur Kill waterway, which separates New Jersey from Staten Island, has been underway since late May 2006. Upon completion, this important project will protect and maintain the integrity of Joint Meeting's twin treated effluent pipelines that discharge into the Arthur Kill. The original bulkhead was constructed during the 1930s.

The work that is underway is expected to be completed by early December 2006 and should extend the life of the existing bulkhead for at least

the next 50 years. The contractor, Trevcon Construction Company, has worked on numerous projects along the New Jersey-New York waterfronts for many years and is a highly respected firm. The engineering firm is Schoor DePalma.

A new two-story laboratory and office building will be constructed on site immediately to the east of the P. & O. Building. Construction will begin by early November. The firm of Jeral Construction Service was awarded the contract to construct the building. The engineering company is Schoor DePalma.

Construction of the new facilities is expected to take approximately 18 months. The entire first floor will consist of a modern laboratory to replace the outdated and space-limited existing main laboratory that was constructed during the 1970s. The artist's drawing of the new laboratory and office building is on page one.

This article was prepared by Stephen Dowhan, Senior Project Manager of Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties.

Employees' Idea Saves Work

Why did David Friedland, a wastewater treatment operator in Joint Meeting's Dewatering Facility, take the time to cook a hot lunch for two mechanics? Well, it could have been friendship or a love of cooking or he was just being a nice guy. But no, the real reason David made homemade ribs and fried chicken for maintenance mechanics Dan Comerie and Ralph Scott was a heartfelt thank you to these men for a job well done.

It seems that for years operators in the Dewatering Facility would have to crawl under moving belts to clean sludge that had fallen off the belts. It was a messy job that no one wanted to do and it could be difficult twisting one's body to clean up the mess in a confined space.

So Ralph Scott conceived the idea and Dan Comerie made and installed metal brackets, which were hooked up to four wiper blades to prevent sludge from falling off the reversing conveyor belts #3 and #4. It was a simple but effective way to save operators from getting into an awkward body position to do the messy clean-up under the belts.

The staff of operators: David Friedland, Manny Roman, Howard Zimmerman, Ray Majewski, George Garcia and Mario Frietas were very appreciative of the efforts of Dan and Ralph. So David Friedland put on his chef's hat and brought in the hot lunch for Ralph and Dan as an expression of thanks for a simple idea that will make life a little easier for everyone.



Ralph Scott, left, and Dan Comerie stand in front of a new timesaving device on Dewatering's conveyor belts.

Changes in State of New Jersey Group Insurance Laws

Several new changes under the State of New Jersey Group Health Insurance laws will be taking place in 2007. One gives employees the option to continue health insurance coverage to certain qualified dependents up to age 30. Another changes the co-pays for medical and prescription drug plans. A third proposed change would eliminate duplicate coverage if approved.

Normally, a dependent child who reaches age 23 will automatically be deleted from group coverage on December 31st of the year he/she turns 23. The dependent child then has the option to continue coverage for 36 months under COBRA, but he/she must pay the premiums. If the COBRA period ends, under the new law, Chapter 375, the dependent may continue coverage up to age 30 under specific restrictions.

To qualify for this new Chapter 375 coverage, the coverage child must:

- Be under age 30
- Be unmarried
- Have no dependents
- Be a NJ resident or full-time student at an institution of higher learning
- Not be covered under another health plan

An eligible child may enroll now for coverage that will begin on January 1, 2007. During 2007, an eligible child may enroll at any time, with coverage taking effect on the first of a month. For 2008 and forward, Chapter 375 enrollments must take place during the annual October open enrollment period. If an enrollee opts to take the Chapter 375 coverage, he/she is responsible for the full cost of the monthly premiums. The costs can be obtained through the Human Resources Office or under the State of New Jersey Health Insurance web page at

www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/shbp.htm

A second change effective January 1, 2007 will affect employees enrolled in NJ Plus and an HMO. The co-payment for primary care doctor visits and visits to specialists will increase from \$5 to \$10. Co-payments for 30-day supplies of prescription drugs will increase from \$5 to \$10 for brand name drugs and from \$1 to \$3 for generic drugs. Mail orders for 90-day supplies go from \$1 to \$5 for generic and from \$5 to \$15 for brand name drugs.

Under proposed rule changes, which have not yet been adopted, an employee under the State Health Plan would only be able to have coverage as a member or a dependent, but not as both. So if a husband and wife both have SHBP coverage as employees, each would then have to elect single coverage or one may elect member/spouse coverage. Qualified dependent children could only be carried by one parent. If adopted, affected employees would be notified and changes would occur in early 2007.



Miguel Foster worked as an intern in Joint Meeting's Site Services Department.



Kurtis Chiappone interned this summer in the Information Technology Department.

Board Seats New Members

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Three new members were appointed to one-year terms on the Joint Meeting Board of Directors effective July 2006. They are **Hon. Richard Giuditta** from West Orange, **Hon. Ronald C. Rice** from the City of Newark, and **Hon. Jerome Jewell** from Hillside Township. It is the first time each new member is serving on the Joint Meeting Board.

Hon. Richard Giuditta is replacing the Hon. Robert Parisi; Hon. Ronald C. Rice takes over for Hon. Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins; and Hon. Jerome Jewell will sit in place of Hon. Joseph Pinckney.

The Board changed the makeup of their committees with Hon. Ronald C. Rice being selected to chair the Operations Committee. Hon. Richard Giuditta will also sit on the Operations Committee as well as Hon. Jerome Jewell.

In addition, the Board chose **Hon. Anthony Terrezza** of Union to head the Personnel and Procurement Committee; **Hon. Kathleen M. Leventhal** of Maplewood will also sit on that committee. **Hon. Jacqueline E. Johnson** of East Orange was selected for the Personnel and Procurement Committee.



Summer intern **Camille Braker** worked in the lab and office.



Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties

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*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 Sec./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

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Board Committees 2006

The Board of Directors committee assignments for the 2nd half of 2006 are:

Operations Committee

Chair: Ronald C. Rice
Richard Giuditta
Jerome Jewell
Ellen Steinberg

Public Relations Committee

Chair: Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Dave A. Bomgaars
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Richard Matarante

Finance & Budget Committee

Chair: Allen J. Rosen
Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Anthony Terrezza

Personnel & Procurement Committee

Chair: Anthony Terrezza
Jacquelyn E. Johnson
Kathleen M. Leventhal
Allan J. Rosen