

# the WORKS

Employee newsletter for the Miami-Dade County Public Works and Waste Management Department

## Senior Staff Retreat

**D**ecember saw another Departmental retreat, this one for senior staff members. The retreat took place at the Pelican Harbor Marina on the 79th Street Causeway.

Department Director Kathleen

Woods-Richardson, Assistant Director Paul Mauriello, Interim

County Engineer Antonio Cotarelo, and Bill Busutil of the Office of Management and Budget spoke at the retreat, sharing their knowledge and experience with approximately 30 senior employees present.

Retreats offer two key benefits to senior staff. First, they offer a unique occasion to interact with colleagues. And second, retreats provide upper-level management an opportunity to get out important messages to senior staff.

The retreat presented exercises in team building and networking opportunities. Senior staff members spent the entire time focused on the retreat so they could gain from the information presented throughout the day.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Dear PWWM Staff,*

Happy holidays! Truly the holiday season is the most wonderful time of the year. It's the perfect time to celebrate with family, friends and colleagues and to reflect fondly on the past year. It's also an ideal time to look forward to a promising new year.

As I reflect on 2012, I think about how we successfully blended our Departments during the merger. It was a major task that took a great deal of hard work and flexibility on everyone's part. During that process, our day-to-day operations ran smoothly, and we never missed a beat. At the end of the day, we delivered on our pledge to deliver the first-rate services, programs and projects that our customers and the Miami-Dade County community expect and deserve. Thanks for a job well done!



The new year will be busy and exciting for our Department. On February 1st, we'll host the annual United Way fundraising dinner dance at the Rusty Pelican. You'll have a chance to dine and dance the night away. You won't want to miss the entertainment

and our recognition of our "Unsung Heroes." Be on the lookout for emails and work site posters with details on this very special event!

Big projects are also in store for us. First, we will begin construction on three major People's Transportation Trust-funded projects: NW 87 Avenue from NW 154 Street to NW 186 Street; SW 157 Avenue from SW 184 Street to SW 152 Street; and SW 27 Avenue from Tigertail Avenue to Mercy Way (Phase II). Each of these roadway projects will improve mobility in our community.

We are moving forward with plans to convert the toll system to open road tolling at the Rickenbacker and Venetian Causeways. The move to the State of Florida's SunPass electronic toll program will provide a more efficient and effective operation, using modernized technology and systems. This upgrade is expected to be completed by the next fiscal year.

Phase II of the implementation of the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) was completed this past summer. Now all 2,800 traffic signals in the County are under our traffic control, where we can better help to manage traffic flow, especially during peak hours and special events. Next up is Phase III where we add traffic cameras to the system and other upgrades.

We will continue our commitment to sustainability initiatives. In November, we placed an order for 29 new hybrid waste collection vehicles, 15 of which will be financed using \$1.2 million in Emerging Technology (Clean Diesel) grant funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This latest vehicle purchase will increase our "green fleet" to 35 vehicles. We're also eagerly exploring Compressed Natural Gas as another option for our waste collection fleet which will help reduce our dependence on diesel fuel.

June 2013 will mark the fifth anniversary of our single-stream curbside recycling program. It seems like just yesterday, we were delivering carts and kicking off the program that breathed new life into

*Continued inside*

## Did You Know?

In the last quarter reported (July 2012 through September 2012), our residents recycled:

- 808 tons of cardboard/paper
- 7,935 tons of newspaper
- 823 tons of mixed paper
- 207 tons of tin cans
- 995 tons of plastics
- 131 tons of aluminum
- 3,367 tons of glass

## PWWM Goes Hybrid

In September 2010, the Department acquired its first six hybrid waste collection vehicles. The side-loader trucks use Parker Hannifin's unique Series Hydraulic Hybrid Drive system, making the Department the first municipal waste agency in the country to use waste collection vehicles powered by this advanced technology.

Apparently, the technology works great. Because the Department is adding 29 more new hybrid waste collection trucks, increasing its environmentally friendly fleet by a whopping 483 percent.

"The hybrid trucks use 45 percent less fuel than our traditionally powered trucks," said Danny Diaz, Director for the PWWM Fleet Management Division. "Also, the trucks capture power from braking, which means less wear and tear on the brakes and as a result, fewer brake jobs are needed on these trucks."

Beginning this month, the Department's use of hybrid technology will extend to heavy equipment. As of press time, the Department was set to accept delivery on a new Caterpillar D7E, a diesel-electric hybrid bulldozer. The bulldozer is slated for use on the working face at the South Dade Landfill. According to the manufacturer's website, this hybrid bulldozer is 25 percent more efficient than a similar, conventional-power bulldozer.



*One of the Department's hybrid waste collection vehicles makes PR Newswire's electronic bulletin board on Times Square in New York City.*

## 58th Street Building Set To Open

It's been awhile in the making, but as of press time, the new 58th Street Building was just about ready to open. The 58th Street building will house Garbage, Trash and Fleet Management staff. The original building had been built in the 1960's. The new building basically uses the shell of the old building and builds upon that, with the addition of modern amenities.



*Refurbishment of the 58th Street Building has been completed and the facility is nearly ready for occupancy.*

## Solid Waste Master Plan Update: Solid Waste Advisory Committee

The Department's Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP) process keeps moving forward and is now in Phase II. After several community meetings seeking input along with a waste composition study, analysis of existing system conditions and a needs assessment, Phase II kicked off with the first of seven monthly meetings of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) this past September.

As its name would suggest, the Advisory Committee's role is to advise the Department's SWMP team, including HDR Engineering, Inc., the project consultant, as they screen and evaluate solid waste disposal alternatives for the County to use over the next 50 years. A major part of this process is development of several solid waste management alternative scenarios that meet the County's needs, such as cost effectiveness, flexibility, and environmental soundness. Ultimately, the project team working with the SWAC will make a recommendation to the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners for their consideration and ultimate vote.

The 15-member SWAC represents a diverse range of stakeholder interests within Miami-Dade County including municipalities, private haulers, business interests, homeowners, waste industry partners and environmental groups.

SWAC meetings are open to the public. Meetings take place the fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) through April 24, 2013 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Main Library Auditorium, 101 W. Flagler Street in downtown Miami.

## Recycling Savings!

Miami-Dade's recycling efforts helped save the following during the last quarter reported (July 2012 through September 2012):

- 124,668 mature trees
- 48.6 million kilowatt hours of electricity
- 48,582 cubic yards of landfill airspace
- 23,725 barrels of oil
- Additionally, the County helped avoid the release of 17,500 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and the County's waste-to-energy facility generated 4.06 million kilowatt hours of electricity from waste



# CORNER

## Congratulations

*A total of 15 PWWM employees were rewarded for their hard work with a promotion recently. The following is a listing of the employees and their new positions:*

**SWM, Landfill Superintendent**  
Larry Adams

**Trash Crane Operator**  
Cyrus Patrick

**Trash Truck Driver 1**  
Michael Cooper  
Wanda Harper  
Michael James  
Lanaldridge Rolle  
Darrell Wilcox

**Trash Truck Driver 2**  
Gary Butler  
Edwin Feliciano  
Marvin Stubbs  
Jerry Thomas

**Waste Enforcement Officer 2**  
Joseph Bolufe

**Waste Supervisor 1**  
Edward Willis

**Waste Supervisor 2**  
Larry Wilson

**Welder**  
Jason Williams

*Welcome to the following County employee who transferred to the PWWM:*  
**Waste Plant Mechanic**  
Hector Exposito

*Welcome to the following new hires to the PWWM team:*  
**Purchasing Specialist**  
Sharon Eubank

**Waste Attendant 1**  
Dequan Kinsey  
Ronetta Nichols  
Jeremiah Reed  
Dantrez Wilson

*Congratulations, best wishes and a heartfelt thank you for a job well done to PWWM employees who have recently retired:*

**58th Street Garbage/Commercial**  
Joseph Wilcox  
Waste Truck Driver  
21 Years

**Director's Office**  
Yvette Colbourne  
Executive Assistant to the Department Director  
29 Years

**Traffic Engineering**  
Alfred Powell  
Engineer 1  
31 Years

Alvaro Tellez  
Professional Engineer  
19 Years

**Human Resources**  
Idania Damas  
Clerk 3  
18 Years

**North Dade Landfill**  
Joseph Olivier  
Waste Attendant 1  
14 Years

Solivert Victor  
Waste Attendant 1  
14 Years

**Northeast Transfer Station**  
Henry Robinson  
Trash Truck Driver 2  
35 Years

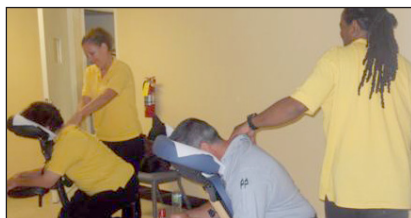
**Resources Recovery Transfer**  
Isaiah Ashley  
Trash Truck Driver 2  
34 Years

## Safety Corner

### Safety and Health Awareness Month Events

**T**his past June was Safety and Health Awareness Month. The Department held a number of related events at various facilities and raffled off prizes to employees. The events were very well attended, with as many as 68 employees present.

Winning the Safety and Health Awareness Month Contest were the Resources Recovery Landfill and Resources Recovery Transfer Station.



*PWWM employees received a free massage, courtesy of Av Med, at the South Dade Landfill's Safety and Health Awareness Fair.*

### Know Your Numbers

**E**arlier in the year, the Department kicked off the "Know your Numbers" program, presented in partnership with Av Med. The premise of the program was to teach employees the importance of several key personal health statistics, such as blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose and Body Mass Index, or BMI.

Participating employees underwent an initial screening and were given a "tracker card" to keep tabs on their numbers. Employees would bring their tracker cards to health events throughout the year so the cards could be stamped; in the fall, a final screening took place and participants became eligible for a prize drawing.

Prize winners were:

**Debbie Blanco** - Elliptical Trainer  
**Sabrina Diaz-Garro** - Sports Authority  
Gift Card \$100

**Kathryn Hudson** - Sports Authority  
Gift Card \$100

Congratulations and thanks to everybody for participating!



*The Safety and Health Awareness Fair at 3B.*

### Health Tip

**T**he benefits of walking are innumerable: it can help your cholesterol levels, it can help your heart, it can help you lose weight, and it can help with other health issues.

It's easy to incorporate some walking into your daily routine even if you're pressed for time:

- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Park your car far from your home, office or the mall so you can walk a longer distance.
- If any of your daily errands are close enough to walk, walk there instead of driving.

Even though the risk of injury while walking is low, you should always check with your doctor before beginning any new program of exercise, and make sure you wear comfortable shoes when you walk.



*Resources Recovery employees pose proudly with their well-deserved certificates.*

# Celebrating Progress at PWWM

The Department has been very busy lately. A number of major roadway projects have either broken ground or been completed recently. Here are just a few.



**District 1 Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan, Department Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson, and officials from the City of Miami Gardens came together to celebrate the opening of NW 7th Avenue.**

## NW 7th Avenue in Miami Gardens

District 1 Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan joined forces with the Department and the City of Miami Gardens to celebrate the opening of NW 7th Avenue in Miami Gardens. The major roadway was completed through a partnership between the Department and the City of Miami Gardens. The project included new landscaping, ornamental lightposts, traffic calming circles, dedicated bicycle lanes, left-turn lanes, stormwater drainage improvements and new sidewalks.



**Former Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Joe A. Martinez, Area 11 Community Council Member Joseph E. Delaney, officials from the PWWM and Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, and local residents help break ground on the SW 147th Avenue Roadway Improvement Project.**

## SW 147th Avenue in West Miami-Dade

Former Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners Joe A. Martinez, Area 11 Community Council Member Joseph E. Delaney, officials from the PWWM and the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, and local area residents teamed up to break ground recently on the SW 147th Avenue Roadway Improvement Project. The project will join two segments of road near the western edge of Miami-Dade County.



**Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, Department Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson, and officials from the Town of Miami Lakes break ground on the NW 87th Avenue Roadway Improvement Project.**

## NW 87th Avenue in Miami Lakes

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, the Department, and the Town of Miami Lakes broke ground recently on the NW 87th Avenue Roadway Improvement Project. This long-anticipated project will join two segments of a major roadway in northwest Miami-Dade County. The project will also widen parts of the roadway to four lanes from NW 154th Street to NW 186th Street.

## NEAT Facts

The NEAT teams completed the following tasks during the last quarter reported (July 2012 through September 2012):

- 168 trash/debris removal sites were straightened out
- 3,776 trees were trimmed for safety purposes
- 4,583 drain tops were cleaned
- 812 uneven sidewalks were repaired
- 5,754 graffiti sites were addressed
- 168 traffic signs were repaired
- 200 potholes were repaired
- 3,102 weed control sites were cleared

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*continued from front page*

our recycling efforts in Miami-Dade County. To date, we've recycled 231,545 tons of recyclable material. I'm proud to say that tonnage increases every year, as does our pride in this important environmental effort.

This list just scratches the surface of the work we'll perform and projects we'll undertake in the new year. I'm excited and I hope that you'll share in my excitement as we move forward into 2013. It promises to be another great year for our Department!

*Kathleen Woods-Richardson*  
Director



# PWWM Giving Back

## Department Annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser for United Way Coming Very Soon!

It's almost time for the Department's Annual Dinner Dance fundraiser for the United Way of Miami-Dade! This upcoming event, "Unsung Heroes," will take place Friday, February 1, 2013, from 7 p.m. to midnight. Just



**Deputy Mayor Alina Hudak and Department Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson at the Department's Golden Slipper Dinner Dance which took place earlier this year.**

like the last dinner dance fundraiser, this year's extravaganza will take place on beautiful Biscayne Bay, at the Rusty Pelican Waterfront Restaurant on Key Biscayne.

As always, there will be plenty of food, dancing, music—and fun!

Tickets will be \$35, which will go towards a great cause: the United Way.

So make sure to be on the lookout for announcements on the "Unsung Heroes" Dinner Dance to benefit the United Way. Hope to see you there!

## PWWM Tech Employees: Food and Toys

First came the food: for five dollars, you could enjoy a delicious falafel sandwich, courtesy of the Technical Services Division, this past November. And if that didn't leave you feeling good, here's what Technical Services did with the roughly \$1,300 they raised selling sandwiches: they purchased toys for hospitalized children!

After playing falafel chefs and servers, Technical Services staff took on the role of Santa's helpers, purchasing toys and helping make this holiday season a little brighter for some girls and boys who aren't feeling so well. The toys were distributed to children at the Holtz Children's Hospital (at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center) and The Kidz Korner, a pediatric rehabilitation and ventilator management center.



**Santa and his helpers (Technical Services Division staff) hand out toys to hospitalized children.**

## Goodwill Industries Tour Signals Start of United Way Fundraising Efforts

The Department has kicked off its fundraising efforts in support of United Way of Miami-Dade County.

In October, members of the senior management team visited Goodwill Industries of South Florida – a United Way partner agency – whose mission is to help people with disabilities and special needs to become self-supporting and independent. While you're probably familiar with Goodwill's donation centers and retail stores in Miami-Dade and Broward, the organization runs additional businesses that most in our community are not aware of. These other business enterprises include a janitorial company that cleans local office buildings and Miami-Dade Transit's fleet of buses; food service programs for two Coast Guard locations; document destruction services and apparel/flag manufacturing.

The tour of Goodwill's main facility, where clients receive evaluation of their abilities and skills, training,

and employment opportunities, afforded staff a first-hand look at the massive and impressive apparel/flag manufacturing operation. At the facility, clients receiving rehabilitation services sew military clothing and hats for the U.S. government, work aprons for local businesses like Publix and flags for the City of Miami, the State of Florida and United States. One of the most important flags produced at the facility is the U.S. interment flag.

"To see the operation and the hundreds employed by the agency is humbling but uplifting. It's a poignant reminder of how my donation is helping to make a difference in the lives of people in our community," said Gayle Love, Division Director for Public Information and Outreach.

During the Department's fundraising effort, employees will have a chance to learn more about United Way partner agencies to see how donations are put to work to provide the services and programs that

benefit those in our community who need a helping hand. Please consider increasing your contribution or making a first-time gift to United Way.



**A Goodwill employee, dressed to celebrate Halloween, conducts a tour of Goodwill's manufacturing facility for senior PWWM staff.**



**A Goodwill employee sews an American flag at Goodwill's manufacturing facility.**

# employee stories

## Lou Rodriguez Giving of Himself for the Community

**L**ou Rodriguez, Division Director for Facility Maintenance, has helped save as many as 240 lives in the community. That's according to a Certificate of Appreciation the 28-year County veteran received recently from the Community Blood Centers of Florida, Inc., where he has donated 10 gallons of blood over the years.

Lou reached that incredible milestone at a recent blood drive at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. building.

"After I came back from Vietnam, I made it a campaign to donate blood," said Lou, who said his combat experience helped him appreciate the need to donate blood. "I made it my 'bucket list' to donate 10 gallons of blood in my lifetime."

Lou had donated blood in Houston over a four-year period before coming to Miami-Dade County and making his first donation here in 1982.



*Lou Rodriguez, Director - Facility Maintenance Division, proudly holds up a Certificate of Appreciation for donating his 10th gallon of blood.*

## Jerry Fischer: Helping Keep Miami-Dade Traffic Moving

**O**ne inescapable fact of life in Miami-Dade County is the traffic. Jerry Fischer, Network Manager I in the Traffic Signs and Signals Division, has spent a large part of his nearly 35-year County career working to help manage it.

Jerry worked on the County's Urban Traffic Control System (UTCS) most of his time at the County. The UTCS was initially implemented in the 1970's to help manage the flow of traffic and control the operation of the County's traffic signals, including synchronizing the signals.

"(The UTCS) signals every intersection once per second to coordinate traffic signals," Jerry said. This is so you won't immediately get a red light at the next intersection after your light turns green, for example.

But the UTCS had its limitations and more recently, the County began modernizing its traffic control by implementing a newer system known as the Advanced Traffic Management System.

One of the reasons the Department wanted to switch to ATMS from UTCS is that the County has more than 2,000 traffic signals—the limit for UTCS.

"The goal of Phase II of ATMS was to get all the County's traffic signals into the system," explained Eloy Lee, Construction Manager 3 in the Traffic Signs and Signals Division and Jerry's supervisor. He added that Jerry's role was to help in the transition from the UTCS to the ATMS.

"He is a very reliable person," said Eloy about Jerry. Jerry mostly focused on handling related databases, the computer network and other information technology issues.

ATMS was fully implemented at all County traffic signals in August and the UTCS was retired. The next phase of ATMS, Phase III, will include the addition of traffic cameras and other improvements to help keep traffic moving on the County's more than 7,000 miles of roadways.



*Phase-out of the UTCS—the precursor to today's ATMS. From left to right are: Frank Prats, Eloy Lee, Hiram Hernandez, Juan Pena and Jerry Fischer. Photo by retired PWWM employee Jason Diaz.*



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DIRECTOR

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,  
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