

employee stories

Danny Diaz, Driven To Excellence

Danny Diaz doesn't just deliver excellence every day; he is Driven to Excellence every day.

That's what the trade publication Waste & Recycling News had to say recently as they chose



Danny Diaz,
Division Director,
Fleet Management

Danny as the first-ever Public Sector winner of their new Driven to Excellence Award. The publication created the award program this year to honor the best fleet managers in the recycling and waste industry.

"Frankly, I am not surprised that Danny won this award," said Department Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson. "He is a consummate professional, responsible for a huge fleet of waste collection and other vehicles, and he does

an outstanding job ensuring our drivers have the tools they need to deliver excellence every day to our County residents."

Danny received the award at the Waste Fleet Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. The 10-year County veteran has overseen the Department's waste management vehicles since 2008.

"I am honored and humbled by this award," Danny said. "It reflects the dedication of all of our fleet management staff, who work hard every day to make sure our vehicles and drivers are out on the street, serving our residents."

PWWM Building Bridges—Literally

The day the newly constructed NW 138th Street Bridge was opened in northwestern Miami-Dade County was a happy day for the residents who use the bridge to get to and from work. The bridge, which crosses the Miami River Canal where NW 138th Street meets Okeechobee Road (US 27), replaced an older, smaller bridge, with four traffic lanes and an additional left-turn lane.

The NW 138th Street Bridge connects commercial districts west of the Town of Medley to residential areas such as Hialeah Gardens, Hialeah and Miami Lakes. Elected officials from several local governments, representatives from the Department, and representatives from Williams Paving, the contractor that built the bridge, were on hand for the bridge opening ceremony, which took place in April.



Some of the people who helped make the NW 138th Street bridge, and the bridge opening ceremony, a reality.

Kathleen Woods-Richardson: In The Company Of Outstanding Women

Our Department Director, Kathleen Woods-Richardson, literally found herself in the company of some outstanding women earlier this year. Ms. Woods-Richardson was honored with a Mayor's Pioneer Award as part of the 24th Annual In the Company of Women Awards Celebration this past March at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables.

Ms. Woods-Richardson was one of 13 distinguished women recognized by the program, which is managed by the Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Department and the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women, in partnership with The Parks Foundation of Miami-Dade, and presented by Macy's.

The women who won the award were recognized for having exemplified professional development, community responsibility, leadership and vision, contribution to women's progress, and promotion of pluralism throughout their careers and lives.



Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, PWWM Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson and Alejandra Sarmiento.

PWWM Giving Back

United Way

The last few months have been quite busy for the PWWM's United Way fundraising. We've seen everything from hot dog sales; raffles of money (with a 50/50 split), gift certificates, Miami Marlins tickets, and AD time; bake sales; Jamaican patty sales; the "Biggest Loser" weight-loss contest; even karaoke singing!

And how can we forget what is perhaps the premier United Way fundraiser at the PWWM (and arguably, the County)—the Golden Slipper Dance? Attendees not just from the Department but from the Mayor's Office, other County departments and the Department's partners dined and danced the night away at the Rusty Pelican on Key Biscayne. The event served to honor some of the Department's and County's special ladies and it helped raise \$55,000 for the United Way.



The United Way received a check for \$55,000 from the Department.



The Golden Slipper Dinner Dance lives up to its name as Department Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson leads attendees on the dance floor.

We Have A Winner!

We hope you noticed something new at the top of our newsletter—a name! "The Works" was chosen as the new name of our newsletter from the numerous entries submitted. The winning entry was submitted by Bridget Maldonado of the Enforcement Division. As her prize, she'll receive 8 hours of AD time. Way to go, Bridget!

Did You Know?

In the last three quarters reported (October 2011 through June 2012), our residents recycled:

- 2,412 tons of cardboard/paper
- 23,689 tons of newspaper
- 2,459 tons of mixed paper
- 618 tons of tin cans
- 2,971 tons of plastics
- 392 tons of aluminum
- 10,052 tons of glass

Recycling Savings

Miami-Dade's recycling efforts helped save the following during the last three quarters reported (October 2011 through June 2012):

- 372,228 mature trees
- 145 million kilowatt hours of electricity
- 145,050 cubic yards of landfill airspace
- 70,832 barrels of oil
- Additionally, the County helped avoid the release of 52,256 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and the County's waste-to-energy facility generated 12.12 million kilowatt hours of electricity from waste



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SUMMER 2012

the WORKS

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

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear PWWM Staff,

It's been almost a year since our old departments were merged to create the new Public Works and Waste Management Department. It's been a busy and challenging period for everyone, but we've managed to make the necessary adjustments and refinements that will allow for our continued success as a Department.

Earlier in the spring, we completed the reorganization of our administrative divisions in an effort to eliminate duplicative functions and staffing. It's been a long and demanding process, but we've now been able to combine and co-locate the newly merged divisions so that employees can perform their work more efficiently. Bringing the merged divisions together will facilitate teamwork and foster an improved "esprit de corps."

New faces, new spaces and new ways of doing things are not always easy to accept. But our continued improvement as a Department requires that every member of our Public Works and Waste Management family continue to embrace the changes resulting from our merger. In the coming year, we'll more than

likely continue to face challenges and we'll be asked to continue to do more with less. That's just a reality of the times that we work in. But I have no doubt that each of you will rise to the occasion personally and professionally.

The remainder of the fiscal and calendar year will be busy. Let's not lose sight of what's important:

- Although Tropical Storm Isaac was a good test, hurricane season isn't over yet. Have your preparations ready and remember your workplace responsibilities in the event of another storm.
- The County's second budget hearing will take place on September 20. The decisions made at that time determine our priorities and work plan for the new fiscal year.
- Additional changes and adjustments may be ahead of us as we continue to refine our merger. It's important that we each remain open minded and adapt to our ever-changing circumstances.
- The General Election will be held in November. Like all elections, this one is very important so be sure to take part in the democratic process and exercise your right to vote!
- Finally, keep your head high and stay positive. We have much to be proud of as a Department!

Kathleen Woods-Richardson

Kathleen Woods-Richardson
Director

Preparing Kids For The Future...City

While we're all busy dealing with today's issues, it's still important to prepare for the future. Delfin Molins of the Traffic Engineering Division does just that—but in a special way. Delfin is the volunteer Engineering Mentor for a team of seventh graders from St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School in Miami. He worked with Ana Portela, the students' science teacher, to prepare the class for the annual Future City Competition, a contest created by the National Engineers Council (NEC) to interest youngsters in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers by challenging them to imagine, design and build a city 150 years in the future. As part of the competition, students must design their



Members of the St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School team at the Future City Regional competition.

future city using computer software, then they produce a written narrative and an essay about their city, as well as a budget and a scale model. The students from St. Thomas bested approximately 50 other South Florida schools to represent the area at the national competition in Washington DC this past February. There, the students placed sixth overall and they won a Special Award for "Best Futuristic Personal Transportation System."

Kids And The Power Of Work=KAPOW!

This past May, a group of elementary school students from Golden Glades Elementary School in Miami Gardens learned about recycling and went on a tour of the Resources Recovery Facility to learn more about what we do and possible careers in the fields of waste management and recycling. The visiting children were part of a national program known as Kids and the Power of Work, or KAPOW. The KAPOW program works with schools, businesses and government agencies to teach elementary age school children important skills they'll need to know when they enter the world of work as adults. The program includes classroom instruction and visits from professionals who talk to the students about their respective careers and workplaces. The program eventually leads to a worksite visit, where the students can see the workplace in action and put together some of the things they've learned about work during the school year. Our very own Assistant Director for Administration Aneisha Daniel was

PWWM Celebrates National Public Works Week

As employees of the Public Works and Waste Management Department, we're aware of what we do. But many County employees and residents aren't. That's why, this past May, the Department celebrated National Public Works Week. National Public Works Week was created by the American Public Works Association in 1960 to foster public awareness of the importance of public works in community life.



PWWM employees at the Department's National Public Works Week display.

Our Department is responsible for many facilities and services including the County's roadways and bridges; storm drainage; mosquito control; traffic signals, signs and control; canal maintenance; and solid waste collection, disposal and recycling. "The mobility, health, safety, comfort and prosperity of our County depends on these vital facilities and services," said Department Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson. The Department's celebration of National Public Works Week featured a display in the lobby of the Stephen P. Clark Center which included a model bridge with horn, working traffic signal, a mosquito control display with live mosquitoes, and trucks including a mosquito control spray truck, an automated hybrid waste collection truck and a lift truck.

the KAPOW teacher at Golden Glades Elementary and arranged for the students' worksite visit to our administrative offices and the Resources Recovery Facility.



Students in the KAPOW program at the Resources Recovery Facility.

CORNER

<p><i>Several PWWM employees were rewarded for their hard work with a promotion recently. The following is a listing of the employees and their new positions:</i></p> <p>NEAT Specialist Alejandro Benitez Steve Foster Javier Medina</p> <p>PW Supervisor 1 Juan Mera</p> <p>Traffic Analyst 2 Yelenys Eymil Annie Soto</p> <p>Trash Truck Driver 1 Steven Gilbert Terrance Stovall</p> <p>Waste Equipment Operator Sheila Cooks Wendell Edwards Anthony Passmore Paul Taylor</p> <p>Waste Truck Driver Monique Hanks</p> <p><i>Welcome to the following County employees who transferred to the PWWM:</i></p> <p>Account Clerk Karen Major</p> <p>Administrative Officer 3 Calbert Green</p> <p>Clerk 2 Tawanda McNair Melonee White</p> <p>Construction Manager 2 Jairaj Raghunandan</p> <p>Engineer 2 James Ferreira</p> <p>Engineer 3 Otto Rojas</p>	<p>Engineering Surveying Tech 1 Jorge Maury</p> <p>NEAT Specialist Eduardo Castillo Jose Crespo Jose Manreza Guillermo Morales Jorge Quintana</p> <p>Office Support Specialist 2 Adela Brooks-Viloria Latasha Conner Iliana Sanabria</p> <p>Painter Jose Fernandez</p> <p>PW Inspector 1 Joaquin Montesino</p> <p>Road Construction Cost Estimator Javier Bores</p> <p>Safety Specialist 2 Patrick Cotter</p> <p>Secretary Esther Jean</p> <p>Semi-Skilled Laborer Darrell Jackson Deanna Lay Gregory McCullough</p> <p>Traffic Analyst 2 Yamile Gomez</p> <p>Trash Truck Driver 1 Rhonda Buroker Nakedra Gay Curt Ivins Donald Lewis Stacy Cochran-McDonald</p> <p>Trash Truck Driver 2 Osvaldo Perez</p> <p>Word Processing Operator 2 Beatriz Nudel</p>	<p><i>Congratulations, best wishes and a heartfelt thank you for a job well done to PWWM employees who have recently retired:</i></p> <p>3A Garbage Tony Etienne Waste Collector 35 Years</p> <p>Marie Johnson Waste Collector 30 Years</p> <p>3B Garbage Jameel D. Florence Waste Truck Driver 9 Years</p> <p>Loretta McMillan Waste Supervisor 2 39 Years</p> <p>James Williams Waste Truck Driver 26 Years</p> <p>58th Street Garbage Robert L. Adams Waste Collector 27 Years</p> <p>58th Street Trash Moses Jackson III Trash Crane Operator 38 Years</p> <p>Vincent E. Sturup Trash Truck Driver 1 20 Years</p> <p>Administration – Trash Division Carl Stringer Division Director 30 Years</p> <p>Canal Maintenance Cecil Scott Road Construction Cost Estimator 32 Years</p> <p>Regina Smith Secretary 31 Years</p>	<p>Causeways Division Loris Bromell Bridge Operator 21 Years</p> <p>Caridad Castillo Administrative Secretary 31 Years</p> <p>Central Transfer Station Hector A. Toledo Trash Truck Driver 2 24 Years</p> <p>Construction Division Pedro Estopinan Construction Manager 2 17 Years</p> <p>Fiscal and Performance Management Division Eugene C. Thomas Special Projects Administrator 18 Years</p> <p>Procurement & Contracts Management Ermine Brookes Administrative Officer 3 30 Years</p> <p>South Dade Landfill Leroy W. Holt SW Landfill Superintendent 26 Years</p> <p>Traffic Signals and Signs Robert Janosi Traffic Control Standards and Specifications Coordinator 42 Years</p> <p>Trash Collection Charles Summers Waste Supervisor 1 30 Years</p> <p>West Transfer Station Gonzalo R. Carmona Trash Truck Driver 2 28 Years</p>
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Kenneth Spencer, Making Customers Happy

Service with a smile. It's what one customer in Pinecrest gets every Monday and Thursday from Waste Truck Driver Kenneth Spencer. Here, we'll let the customer tell you in his own words:

As a manager myself, I am most interested in getting feedback from my customers, good or bad!...I would [like] to share with you a person I have got to know through his service in our community. I live [in] Pinecrest and I still don't know his name but he has been our sanitation engineer driver since I can remember. He is a stand-up person, always courteous, friendly and a pleasure to see every Monday and Thursday. He goes that extra step even if it's just a friendly wave of the hand. Please pass on a "thank you" from my wife and I.

We will, sir!

Mosquito Control

Heavy rains earlier this year brought with it some very wet days and something else nobody wants: mosquitoes. But the Department's Road, Bridge, Canal and Mosquito Control Division has been hard at work to keep the buzzing bugs at bay. "Mosquito season started early this year but so did we with truck and aerial spraying missions to reduce the population of mosquitoes," said Road, Bridge, Canal and Mosquito Control Division Chief Manuel Garcia. "Already we have conducted 100 truck spraying missions and three aerial spraying missions, including one with the Air Force Reserve," said Chalmers Vasquez, Mosquito Control Operations Manager. "We have been receiving numerous complaints from residents about mosquitoes this year but you always see the number of complaints drop after we spray." Spraying missions consist of either truck-mounted sprayers or aircraft fitted with spraying equipment and loaded with pesticides approved by both the federal and state governments for the control of mosquitoes. To determine if an area should be sprayed, Mosquito Control staff will measure the adult mosquito activity in



Mosquitoes can transmit diseases such as dengue fever, West Nile virus and malaria to humans.



An Air Force Reserve C-130 on a mosquito spraying mission over Miami-Dade County.

that area. This can include setting out mosquito traps and taking landing counts, which consist of a mosquito inspector counting the number of mosquitoes landing on him in one minute. Mosquitoes are not just annoying pests. They can spread several diseases to humans—such as dengue fever, malaria, yellow fever and West Nile virus—and even pets (heartworm in dogs, for example). You can help reduce the nuisance caused by mosquitoes by remembering the "five Ds:"

- **Dusk and Dawn** – avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active.
- **Dress** – wear long, loose, light-colored clothing that covers the skin.
- **DEET** – use mosquito repellants that contain DEET
- **Drainage** – eliminate standing water around the home in places such as buckets, cans, old tires, and plant containers.

For more information about mosquito control, visit the Department's Mosquito Control web page at <http://www.miamidade.gov/publicworks/mosquito-control.asp>.

Children Need You: The Guardian Ad Litem Program

Imagine you're an emotionally abused eight-year-old child bounced from one foster home to another and you have to appear before a judge to plead your case. Sounds scary, doesn't it? Well, you can help. The State of Florida's Guardian ad Litem Program is a network of professional staff and volunteer community advocates who work together to be a voice in court on behalf of the State's abused and neglected children. The need for volunteers is great and you don't have to be an attorney, as Causeways Division Chief Michael Bauman and recently retired PWWM employee Ermine Brookes—both of whom have been involved with the Guardian ad Litem program—can attest.

NEAT Facts

The NEAT teams completed the following tasks during the last three quarters (October 2011 through June 2012):

- 403 trash/debris sites were found and removed
- 8,956 drain tops were cleaned
- 1,029 graffiti sites were addressed
- 263 potholes were repaired
- 6,754 trees were trimmed for safety
- 3,960 uneven sidewalks repaired
- 404 traffic signs were repaired
- 740 crew hours trimming vegetation along guardrails and sidewalks