

the WORKS

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

West Bascule Bridge on the Venetian Causeway Closed Through February

The West Venetian Bascule Bridge (drawbridge) is currently closed as it is being replaced. A part of the historic Venetian Causeway, the bridge links the Venetian islands and Miami Beach to the City of Miami.

The bridge will remain closed to motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists—open only to marine traffic—until February 2016. Slightly more than 730 feet of the bridge will be demolished and replaced as part of the \$12.4 million project.

The U.S. Coast Guard has agreed to allow the East Venetian Bascule Bridge on the opposite end of the Causeway to remain locked down for the entire duration of the project. Residents of the Venetian islands had requested this as they had some concerns regarding access to the islands during the project.

Alternate routes are the Julia Tuttle Causeway and the MacArthur Causeway. The Department earlier this year worked with the Florida Department of Transportation—owner of the MacArthur Causeway—to place vibratory pavement markings on the MacArthur to help make the roadway safer for bicyclists.

For more information about this project, visit the Department's website at www.miamidade.gov/publicworks.



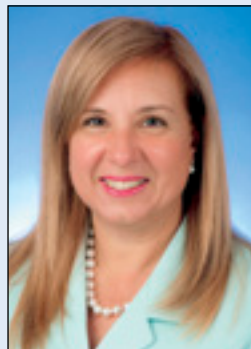
View of the West Venetian Bascule Bridge before the project began.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Staff,

As summer comes to a close, I trust that each of you has had an opportunity to take some time to relax and recharge. Whether you took a much-deserved vacation, spent time working on a household to-do list or prepared to send your son or daughter off to college, I am hopeful that you enjoyed the season!

It's been a busy few months for the department as we have focused a great deal of energy on the department's



Special Taxing Districts program. Public Works and Waste Management is responsible for the management of 1,068 active Special Taxing Districts which provide lighting, security guards and multi-purpose maintenance throughout unincorporated Miami-Dade and in several municipalities.

In July, a special management team made up of my leadership team, staff from our Special Taxing Districts and Fiscal Planning and

Management Divisions, as well as senior administrators from several County departments, was convened to complete a thorough analysis of our Special Taxing Districts program. We did this to ensure that the division is complying with the County ordinance and state statute governing Special Taxing Districts; following proper rate-setting procedures; and providing proper administrative oversight of the contracts associated with Special Taxing District services. The team has reviewed each and every district budget—line by line—and team members have spent countless hours meeting with Special Taxing District residents to address their concerns and to restore the public's confidence in the Special Taxing Districts program. I'm happy to note that all the Special Taxing District items were approved by the Board of County Commissioners early this month. Thank you to each and every staff person who has worked on the Special Taxing Districts effort.

To date, we have been fortunate to experience relatively quiet hurricane and mosquito seasons. There was one close call in Tropical Storm Erika, and we have had to conduct only one aerial mosquito control spray mission this season. While those two seasons don't end

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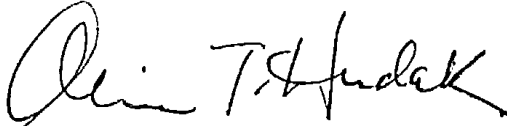
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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with the summer months, we continue to be hopeful that they will remain quiet.

As most of you have seen at County televised meetings or read in the paper, the Department will be going through a significant transition period. The final details have not been sorted out, but I will keep you informed as I learn more. It is important that during times of change that we stay focused on our mission and continue to serve the public. Every day we touch hundreds of thousands of residents. This is evidenced daily as our garbage and trash crews provide collection services or in an emergency situation when our Road and Bridge and Traffic Signals and Signs crews are out working late at night to help remove roadway debris and restore traffic signals as a result of a bad storm. PWWM staff are critical elements of the support infrastructure of our community. Let's stay focused and continue doing our very best!

Regards,



Alina T. Hudak
Deputy Mayor and Department Director

PWWM's Pink Panthers Make Strides Against Breast Cancer

The PWWM Pink Panthers will continue to support the fight against breast cancer by raising money for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Marlins Park on Saturday, October 3rd at 9 a.m. The walk is a major fundraising event for the American Cancer Society with events scheduled in more than 300 communities throughout the United States.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women in the United States, other than skin cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer. Our Pink Panther team needs your help to raise awareness and funds that will be used for research and to help those fighting the disease. Your support – either through your participation in the walk or through your support of the department's fundraising efforts -- will help fight cancer and save lives.

The Pink Panthers have set a fundraising goal of \$500 for this year's walk. You can do your part by donating, walking, volunteering or sponsoring a walk participant. To join our team, visit www.makingstrideswalk.org and sign up with the PWWM Pink Panthers.

New Additional Cart Program for Our Customers

It previously used to be if you were our waste or recycling collection customer and needed an extra green waste or blue recycling cart (or three), you could just call 3-1-1 or download the request form from our website, agree to pay a one-time fee per cart, and you'd be all set.

Due to the rising costs of servicing those extra carts (especially on the waste side), the additional cart program has changed.



The Department's distinctive blue recycling and green waste carts, lined up for collection.

Beginning this current fiscal year, customers with additional waste carts were to pay \$79.50 each year, per additional green waste cart. This is to help defray the cost of collecting and processing additional waste.

In order to encourage more recycling, one additional blue recycling cart is provided free of charge to any customer requesting one. No additional recycling carts beyond this one will be available, however, either for purchase or free of charge.

Customers with additional green waste carts have been grandfathered in for this year. Additionally, these customers are being given the opportunity to opt out of this new program for next year, or they can remain in the program if they prefer.

More information can be found on the Department website at www.miamidade.gov/publicworks/new-cart.asp.

Did You Know?

In the last two quarters reported (October 2014 through March 2015), our residents recycled:

3,393 tons of cardboard/paper	2,308 tons of plastics
8,444 tons of newspaper	182 tons of aluminum
2,962 tons of mixed paper	2,825 tons of glass
395 tons of tin cans	

Congratulations

CORNER

A total of 28 PWWM employees were rewarded for their hard work with a promotion recently. The following is a listing of the employees and their new positions:

Accountant 1

Rafaela Aguilera

Automotive Equipment Operator 2 (Trainee)

Bryant Jonathan

Automotive Equipment Operator 3

Luis Ramos

Executive Secretary

Natalie Daley

Flood Plain Construction Inspector

Claudio Cortes

GIS Specialist

Roberto Lazo

Personnel Specialist 2

Jesmar Olivo

Res. Recovery Admin.

Johanna Faddis

Senior Professional Land Surveyor

Carlos Socarras

Traffic Engineer 1

Yasser Rodriguez

Traffic Engineer 3

William Rivera-Paz

Transfer Station Supt.

Vickta Ali

Trash Crane Operator

Carl Clay
Willie Davis, Jr.
Darryl Styles

Trash Truck Driver 1

Elaine Mitchell

Waste Equipment Operator

Henry Drayton
Yvon Exius
Craig Exum
Calvin Joyner
John Lewis, Sr.
Salvador Mendez

Waste Service Clerk 1

Mohammed Andha

Waste Supervisor 2

Alvin Herring, Jr.

Waste Truck Driver

Alan Dozier, Jr.
Dwight Fulton
Anthony Heyward
John Spivey

Welcome to the PWWM team:

Automotive Equipment Operator 1

Desi Saludes

Bridge Operator Full-Time

Jennifer Thorpe

Bridge Operator Part-Time

Frandy Dupuy
Roselyn Pollard
Aldo Maestri-Sola

Bridge Repairer

Omar Pichs

Causeway Service Specialist

Yolanda Capote

Chief, Intergovernmental & External Affairs

Aimee Cabrera

Duplicating Equipment Operator

McKelly Medard

Engineer 1

Felipe Monteagudo

Engineer 2

Licet Izquierdo

Engineer Drafter 2

Jose Gutierrez
Daniel Ruiz

Engineering Survey Tech Supervisor

Jeffrey Whitmore

Personnel Specialist 2

Ruelynn Lafortune

PWWM Manager

Jewel Johnson

Road Construction Cost Estimator

Miguel De La Cruz

Semi-Skilled Laborer

Miguel Cancio
Rafael Montenegro

Special Projects Administrator 1

Ryan Lafarga
Vanessa Palacio

Traffic Engineer 1

Juan Canizares

Traffic Engineer 2

Myra Patino

Waste Attendant 1

Oladipo Adeshina
Kevin Ancrum
Elie David
Herbert Florence, Jr.
Donnie Foster, Jr.
Michael Johnson, Jr.
Vajiy Major
Remond Wright
Jarrod Young

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

3B Garbage

Fils Augustin
Waste Truck Driver
33 Years

3B Trash

Lorian Mallary, Jr.
Trash Crane Operator
31 Years

58th Street Trash

Willie Oliver
Waste Attendant 1
32 Years

Construction Division

Osvaldo Barros
Road Construction Cost Estimator
7 Years

Alberto Estevez
Construction Manager 3
37 Years

Jesus Gonzalez
PWWM Projects Inspector 2
19 Years

Otto Rojas
Engineer 3
21 Years

Enforcement

Valencia Pierson
Waste Enforcement Officer 1
27 Years

Finance

Victor Moreno
Accountant 1
26 Years

Human Resources

Nicholas Lamis III
Personnel Technician
26 Years

Landfill Division

Billy Hudson
Waste Equipment Operator
27 Years

Brenda Sanders
Waste Scale Operator
33 Years

Paul Taylor
Waste Equipment Operator
26 Years

Rickenbacker Causeway

Jean Cazeau
Toll Collector
14 Years

Rosa Dejo
Toll Collector
7 Years

Ronald Handy
Automotive Equipment Operator 1
13 Years

Agico Leon
Toll Collector
7 Years

Right-of-Way and Survey

Edward Conner
Engineering Survey Tech Supervisor
40 Years

Wayne Sutton
Senior Professional Land Surveyor
24 Years

Road, Bridge, Canal Maintenance and Mosquito Control

Charles Calkins
Road Construction Cost Estimator
38 Years

Jon Gamble
Semi-Skilled Laborer
41 Years

Wilfrid Isaac
Automotive Equipment Operator 1
30 Years

Raymond Patrick
Mosquito Control Inspector
34 Years

Augustin Perez
Mosquito Control Inspector
6 Years

Stormwater Utility

Armando Jo Chao
Engineer 3
15 Years

Traffic Signals and Signs

Terry Mongole
Traffic Signal Tech Supervisor
29 Years

Transfer Stations

Israel Cruz
Trash Truck Driver 2
26 Years

Willie Moore
Transfer Station Superintendent
35 Years

Dry Summer Not Necessarily a Bummer

Summer in Miami-Dade County usually means rain (and lots of it)—and mosquitoes. After several years of higher than normal rains during the summer rainy season, however, Summer 2015 is so far turning out to be a relatively dry one.

As of press time, rainfall totals for the County for 2015 were below average. Although plants, the Everglades and our drinking water source—the Biscayne Aquifer—can all use the rain, a drier than normal season is not entirely bad.

The Department's Road, Bridge, Canal and Mosquito Control (RBCMC) Division reports fewer street flooding and mosquito complaints this year than in the past couple of years, thanks mostly to the drier than normal conditions.

This of course means less trouble for County residents. Less street flooding means less property damage (both to homes and buildings, as well as to vehicles) and fewer traffic issues. Fewer mosquitoes means less spraying is necessary, fewer residents are dealing with nuisance



mosquitoes and, very importantly, diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and West Nile Virus disease are less likely to spread throughout the County.

That said, it's never a bad thing to minimize the hazards posed by street flooding and by mosquitoes. RBCMC is still out cleaning canals and storm drain systems, and spraying for mosquitoes (by truck, and if warranted, by air).

You can do your part by properly disposing of yard waste at your home, to ensure it stays out of the storm drain system, and by following the "drain and cover" principles to reduce the mosquito population:

- Drain all standing water in your yard, from containers, boats, plants and planters, and the like.
- Cover yourself when going outside to avoid getting bitten by mosquitoes, and cover your skin with a good mosquito repellent.

To learn more, visit the Department's website at www.miamidade.gov/publicworks.

NACo Awards: Five Years and Going!

For the fifth year in a row, the Department has won a National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award! This year's award-winning program was the *Public Works & Waste Management Inside Look/Overview Online Video Campaign*.

"The NACo Achievement Awards we have received this year and previous years are a great testimony to the creativity, innovation and hard work of our Department's employees," said Department Director Alina T. Hudak.

The *Public Works & Waste Management Inside Look/Overview Online Video Campaign* was created in cooperation with the Community Information and Outreach (CIAO) Department to inform residents that services would not change after the Public Works and Waste Management Departments were merged in 2011. The campaign also offered the Department an opening to highlight the wealth of services furnished by the Public Works functions, something that had never been done

before in the County. The three videos that make up the campaign can be viewed online (visit the web page www.miamidade.gov/publicworks/about.asp and click the link titled "Videos"): *Inside Look at Public Works*, *Inside Look at Waste Management* and *Solid Waste Management - Overview for Kids*.

NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is a non-competitive awards program that recognizes innovative county government programs. Each application is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received. Awards are given in 21 different categories including children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, and many more.



A still photo from the video Inside Look at Public Works.

Recycling Savings!

Miami-Dade's recycling efforts helped save the following during the last two quarters reported (October 2014 through March 2015):

- 213,132 mature trees
- 80.5 million kilowatt hours of electricity
- 76,135 cubic yards of landfill airspace
- 36,192 barrels of oil
- Additionally, the County helped avoid the release of 28,329 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and the County's waste-to-energy facility generated 26 million kilowatt hours of electricity from waste

Miami Avenue Bridge to be Completed Later This Year

It's a key strategic point, where downtown and the Brickell area meet. And it's precisely for that reason the Miami Avenue Bridge is currently being improved.

The bridge, which goes over the Miami River at the point where the County's streets are divided east from west, gets a significant amount of traffic daily. And that has translated into lots of wear and tear for the bridge's steel surface grating and other components.

The improvement project, which has been under way for some time now, comprises installation of a steel bicycle-safe surface grating and numerous other improve-

ments, including replacing certain electrical components and installing new navigation lighting. The project is being conducted in phases, with one side of the bridge closed to all traffic during each phase. Adding to the challenge of the project is a Coast Guard requirement to stop work and open the bridge any time a large ship needs to pass.

The project will extend the bridge's life and improve conditions on the bridge. The busy bridge is scheduled to reopen completely to vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians in December.

PWWM Kicks Off a New Recycling Campaign!

Our curbside recycling continues to flourish! The "single stream" recycling program, which allows residents to place all recyclable items into one cart, has doubled our recycled material from 30,000 tons to 60,000 tons annually since converting from the old system of separating recycling items into two separate carts.

While we're excited to be recycling 60,000 tons of material annually, there is a problem: contamination! Contamination occurs when residents add the wrong materials to their recycling carts. An estimated 30 percent of the material placed in the cart is not acceptable in the County's program or isn't recyclable.

In an effort to prevent contamination, we have launched an advertising campaign, "Recycle This, Not That!" The campaign began this summer and has been communicating the succinct message "Recycle This, Not That" to residents by means of radio, YouTube, online banners, social media, transit ads, and newspaper advertisements. You may have already seen one of these ads in the train or bus on your ride to work!



One of the ads from the new "Recycle This, Not That" campaign.

The campaign displays exactly which items should and shouldn't be placed in the blue recycling carts. The "Recycle This, Not That!" campaign grabs residents' attention and further reinforces the "Keep Your Cart Happy" message.

"One reason that contamination rates are increasing is because recycling companies have become more selective as a result of supply and demand," said Jeanmarie Massa, Recycling Manager, PWWM Public Information and Outreach Division. "The whole purpose of this campaign is to get people to recycle the right way!"

Contamination hinders the recycling process because it gives the recycling companies unsellable items, damages equipment, and causes employees to do extra work

distinguishing the materials. Some contaminants include: plastic bags, foam egg cartons and trays, garden hoses, plastic tubs, plastic cups, plates and utensils, and plastic and wire hangers. These items shouldn't be placed in a curbside cart, but they can be returned to the local retailer, given to a local thrift store, or reused. By taking these extra steps, residents will begin to "recycle the right way!"

NEAT Facts

The NEAT teams completed the following tasks during the last two quarters reported (October 2014 through March 2015):

- 5,467 trash/debris removal sites were corrected
- 7,814 drain tops were cleaned
- 7,799 graffiti sites were addressed
- 235 potholes were repaired
- 9,722 trees were trimmed for safety purposes
- 493 uneven sidewalks were repaired
- 155 traffic signs were repaired
- 6,346 weed control sites were cleared

Bear Cut, West Bridges Project Wins Multiple Awards!

After so much sweat—and tears—were shed to complete the rehabilitation of the Bear Cut and West Bridges on the Rickenbacker Causeway last year, it's gratifying to receive some recognition.

And the recognition has come in droves as the project won not one, not two, but three awards!

First, late last year, the Department—along with its contractor for the \$35 million project, Kiewit Infrastructure South Co.—received two awards for the project from the Design Build Institute of America - Southeast Region (DBIA-SE). The awards were for “Best Project - Renovation/Rehabilitation/Restoration” and the “Honor Award – Infrastructure.” The awards were presented at a DBIA-SE ceremony in November.

Earlier this year, the Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers awarded the County and the Kiewit Infrastructure team the Project of the Year Award, Category III (project construction cost in the range of \$25-\$100 million dollars) for the project on the two bridges.

The project to rehabilitate the Bear Cut Bridge and West Bridge began in summer of 2013 and was completed in the late summer of 2014. Work included repairing and replacing sections of each bridge, replacing the water main running underneath the bridges, and widening and adding dedicated 14-foot wide pathways on each side of the Bear Cut Bridge for cyclists and pedestrians.



Staff members from the Construction Division hold some of the awards won for the Bear Cut and West Bridges project. From left to right, they are: Rene Idarraga, Leo Salgueiro, Mohammad Amini, Luis Baldo, and Bassam Moubayed, Construction Division Chief.

United Way Update

The United Way recently closed out another great year of fundraising to help the less fortunate here at home. Thanks to you and your efforts, they received \$68,410 from PWWM employees. Of that total, \$61,353 came from payroll donations and \$7,057 came from special event fundraisers, which are always fun for everyone!

Some of the more notable fundraisers where the American Airlines ticket raffle, and the ever-popular food fundraisers which included chicken and rib meals, as

well as conch fritter sales. A “shout out” goes out to the following divisions that met their fundraising goals this year: Accounting, Collections (Garbage and Trash), Director's Office, Procurement and Contracts, Traffic Engineering, and Transfer Operations.

The County is gearing up to start the next year's United Way campaign. With the economy improving, now is the time to consider giving something back to your community through the United Way. Look for details in your email.



We're on Twitter! Follow us @MiamiDade_PWWM



The Works

111 N.W. 1st St. • 16th Floor • Miami, FL 33128
www.miamidade.gov/publicworks



Certified Chain of Custody
Promoting Sustainable Forestry
www.sfipogram.org
SFI-C1002



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MAYOR

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