

Employee newsletter for the Miami-Dade County Department of Solid Waste Management

## North Dade Landfill: Nicest in the State!

**L**andfills: society needs them and the department manages them for Miami-Dade County.

But can they be “nice?”

Yes! Our facilities can be nice neighbors and the folks at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)—the state agency that regulates our waste disposal operations—said just that about the North Dade Landfill.



During a recent inspection of the facility in question, the FDEP inspectors told staff “this was the nicest landfill (we) have been to.”

As Assistant Director for Technical Services and Environmental Affairs Asok Ganguli said in an email, “Some entities get to pay hefty fines for not keeping their landfills in compliance, and we get praise from the regulator.”

## Gloria Hanks: Keeping Calm at Golden Glades

**C**onsider yourself lucky if you go to the Golden Glades TRC on a day Waste Attendant Gloria Hanks is working there.

The mother of four and Miami native loves “interacting with the citizens” whom she greets with a smile, and she has even unruffled some ruffled feathers before.

“I calm them down,” Mrs. Hanks said, of residents upset because they’ve come to the Golden Glades TRC with a prohibited item or in a commercial vehicle.

But she considers herself lucky.

“I like working around different people,

*continued on page 3*



**Gloria Hanks**

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear DSWM Staff,

**T**his past year was one none of us will ever forget. We spent a great deal of our time and energy dealing with a public health emergency—Zika—brought about by a tiny but formidable mosquito.

The world’s eyes were on Miami-Dade County as our Mosquito Control division dealt with the first travel-related cases of Zika, followed by the first cases of local transmission of the disease in the United States.

At the height of mosquito season, we juggled three zones of active Zika transmission at any one time, with a total of four zones—Wynwood, south Miami Beach, north Miami Beach, and Little River—in all.

Dealing with the Zika emergency was difficult work that meant long hours, including evenings, early mornings, weekends and holidays for many.

But I’m extremely proud of our staff and partners, including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Florida, our contractors Clarke and Power X, and others. Working together, we became the first place in the world that successfully halted the active spread of Zika. And we repeated this remarkable feat three times.

Of course, we did a lot more than just mosquito control in 2016. Several of our disposal facilities received multi-year operating permits, allowing us to plan and deal with our disposal needs for the next few years. We received a number of awards, including our 22nd consecutive GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, a NACo Achievement Award for the sixth year in a row, a Silver Excellence Award from SWANA, and the Public Technology Institute’s 2016 Technology Solutions Award. We moved ahead on several key projects, including the unmanned scale system, the purchase of CNG and additional hybrid vehicles, and the closure of Cell 19 at the Resources Recovery Facility.

Looking forward to 2017, many challenges remain in front of us. But with last year’s impressive achievements as our foundation, I have every confidence in our ability as a department to meet the road ahead.

I can’t think of a better group of people with whom I’ve been privileged to work. Thank you for all you do. Wishing all of you all the very best in 2017. Happy New Year!

Regards,

**Alina T. Hudak**  
Deputy Mayor and Department Director



# One for the Record Books: Miami-Dade Mosquito Control's Historical Fight Against Zika

**I**t's been quite a busy—and long, and historical, even—mosquito season. Zika, a fairly new disease to the Western Hemisphere, began spreading via mosquito bites throughout Brazil and parts of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2015.

Health experts thought Miami-Dade County would be the first place in the United States to see travel-related cases of Zika, followed by local transmission of the disease. And they were right.

This past summer, the Wynwood neighborhood became the first designated area of local transmission of Zika in the U.S. Another U.S. first: the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) placed a travel advisory on Wynwood. This marked the first time the CDC had placed such a notice on an area within the U.S.

Sometime thereafter, first South Beach then most of Miami Beach was designated a Zika transmission zone, followed by the Little River neighborhood in the early fall.

Although the department's Mosquito Control Section had successfully dealt with its share of tropical, mosquito-borne illnesses before—dengue and chikungunya come to mind—Zika was something entirely new. Unlike the other diseases, for example, Zika could be transmitted through other means (such as sexual contact and blood transfusions), not just mosquito bites. And people could potentially spread Zika without even knowing they have



*Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart speaks with Mosquito Control Inspector Pedro Castellanos as Mosquito Control Inspector Larry Smart looks on.*



*DSWM staff pose for a picture with a pilot during a visit of Lee County's Mosquito Control District.*

it, as health experts believe that as many as 80 percent of people who have Zika don't manifest any symptoms.

Nevertheless, the Mosquito Control Division—with the help of numerous contracted inspection crews, other County departments, several municipalities, the CDC, the Florida Department of Health, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services—responded to the threat with an aggressive mosquito control program. The program included:

- 317,715 site inspections, including ground-based larviciding and adulticide spraying (through December 18)
- 42 truck-mounted adulticide and 149 truck-mounted larvicide spray missions (through December 11)
- 8 aerial adulticide and 4 aerial larvicide spray missions, as recommended by our state and federal partners
- Surveillance (setting out and collecting mosquito traps) at more sites than ever before
- Two cycles of larvicide treatment of the County's more than 150,000 storm drains
- Training code enforcement officers on how to conduct mosquito control inspections
- Education and outreach campaign ("Drain and Cover")

The results of the program? Wynwood was the first area ever in the world to have been declared "Zika-free" af-

## Department Wins National Technology Award for Odor Complaint Application

**C**ongratulations to the Technical Services and Environmental Affairs Division for winning the Public Technology Institute's 2016 Technology Solutions Award for the Odor Complaints GIS Web Intranet Application. Award submissions were critiqued by a panel of independent judges with the department named a winner in the Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) category.

The department submitted the project application after staff identified a need for a technological solution

for recording odor complaints and inspections near the department's solid waste facilities. Working with the County's Information Technology Department (ITD), staff created a GIS map application that would log odor complaints by location.

Using data from the application, staff could inspect one of the 43 odor inspection stations surrounding the two active DSWM solid waste disposal facilities. The system also incorporates



meteorological and geographic data to more accurately address odor complaints that are submitted to the County.

The resulting application has improved the department's ability to record and address odor complaints that come in from the community. By responding to odor complaints recorded by the application, the department is able to reaffirm its role as a good neighbor to residents and businesses that surround our facilities.





**Mosquito Control Inspector Carlos Varas prepares a pesticide fogger for use.**



**Contractors prepare an airplane for an aerial larvicide spray mission.**



**Miami-Dade Mosquito Control is recognized for a job well done by the Board of County Commissioners in December.**

ter a period of Zika transmission, meaning active Zika transmissions were stopped thanks to mosquito control efforts. The positive outcome in Wynwood was noticed by the CDC.

"The message with Wynwood is it was a huge success," said Dr. Lyle Petersen of the CDC.

Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the CDC, took it a step further and complimented our mosquito control program: "In Wynwood they did everything possible. They have an excellent mosquito control program, one of the best in the country, one of the best in the world."

The Zika transmission zone designations in north Miami Beach, South Beach and Little River were all lifted in December.



**Close-up of a dipper used by inspectors to check standing water for mosquito larvae.**

## Gloria Hanks

*continued from page 1*

learning things from different people," Mrs. Hanks said, adding, "you can grow in this department and move up."

Mrs. Hanks' goal is to become a supervisor or a driver. Before she came to the county in 2010 she had worked at Mercy Hospital.

"It was a big transition," coming to the county from Mercy, she reflected.

But she's "looking forward to bettering myself and moving up," she added.

When she's not helping residents at the Golden Glades TRC, Mrs. Hanks loves to cook and spend time with her two dogs, her three grandchildren and four adult children.

## Did You Know?

Last fiscal year (October 2015 through September 2016), our residents recycled:

- 6,621 tons of cardboard/paper
- 16,734 tons of newspaper
- 5,955 tons of mixed paper
- 645 tons of tin cans
- 4,721 tons of plastics
- 534 tons of aluminum
- 5,436 tons of glass

*A total of 95 DSWM employees were rewarded for their hard work with a promotion last fiscal year. The following is a listing of the employees and their new positions:*

**Auto Equipment Operator 1**  
Jamaine Dingle

**Auto Equipment Operator 3**  
Edwin J. Terry, Jr.

**Administrative Secretary**  
Tina Hyman

**Division Director 2**  
German Hernandez

**Division Chief 4**  
Charles E. Lovely

**Enforcement & Collections Clerk**  
Mohammed I. Andha  
George K. Battles

**Environmental Affairs Manager**  
Amado Gonzalez

**HRIS Specialist**  
Enrique Miranda

**Maintenance Superintendent**  
Surash Ramsook

**Office Support Specialist 2**  
Marva V. Rouse

**Purchasing Specialist**  
Ana Lang

**Semi-Skilled Laborer**  
Kareem Dowdell

**Special Projects Administrator 1**  
Tracie V. Auguste  
Robert A. Vargas

**Special Projects Administrator 2**  
Michelle Jackson

**Trash Crane Operator**  
William R. Bryant  
Roderick Cabey  
Leroy H. Cason, Jr.  
Gilbert L. Gadson, Jr.  
Anthony Heyward, Jr.  
Jarvis J. Jeanty  
Calvin Jones  
Fritzner Kersaint  
Desiderio Valdes

**Trash Truck Driver 1**  
Lasean A. Bolds  
David H. Diaz  
Lyn D. Evans  
Dekesha Holmes  
Darran L. Kinsey, Jr.  
Emmanuel Lipscomb  
Kelly Lucas  
Eugene R. Lullen  
Victor Melgar  
Demetrica Miley  
Jonathan L. Papayorgis  
Henry L. Parrish  
Antonio Ramirez

# Congratulations CORNER

Alex Victor  
Dantrez D. Wilson

## **Trash Truck Driver 2**

Eddie Bodie, Jr.  
Juan C. Carrillo  
Anthony E. Clarke  
Ulysses Cochran  
Alberto Cue  
Ephesus Exum, Jr.  
Alfonso Garcia-Rodriguez  
Tavaruss L. Harris  
Luis Hernandez-Espinales  
Hayden A. Hoford  
Dardel Jeanty  
James E. Johnson  
Maximo C. Lopez  
John Mayes, Jr.  
Eric Mayo  
Victor Oquendo, Jr.  
Eduardo Oro  
Clifford Paulk  
Andre Pemberton  
Agustin Sansaricq  
Howard Waters

## **Waste Attendant 1**

Quentin Carter  
Christopher Henderson  
Viscente Ramos  
Gerald Warren

## **Waste Enforcement Officer 1**

Alice Aleman  
Levar Baker  
Alicia Giacci  
Alexander Grijalba  
Yusniel Yumar

## **Waste Enforcement Officer 2**

Kisha Murray

## **Waste Operations Clerk**

Latasha Conner

## **Waste Scale Operator**

Juan A. Lewis

## **Waste Supervisor 1**

Charles D. Brunson  
Maishia K. Dukes  
Kenya H. Hanna  
Jedidiah Herring  
Curt T. Ivins  
Alphonso Johnson  
Latravis E. Martin  
Tetrick T. Reese  
Jamie A. Thomas  
Salina Tyler  
Harry A. Williams

## **Waste Truck Driver**

Torrell D. Black  
Zuri N. Bryant  
Myron A. Cody  
Alan I. Coley  
Quamika Dunn  
Darrell L. Hunter  
Stanley Lathan  
Eugene Ray  
Fred L. St. Jean  
Natevia L. Thompson  
Derek J. Williams

*Welcome to the DSWM team:*

## **Administrative Officer 2**

Fareza Khan  
Doreatha Y. Walker

## **Administrative Secretary**

Jennifer M. Hernandez

## **Collection Specialist**

Lascelles G. Lee

## **Contracts Compliance Analyst**

Christene C. Seymour

## **Engineer 2**

Ramon Alba

## **Human Resources Manager**

Myra A. Marlow

## **Information Officer**

James Richards

## **Mosquito Control Inspector**

Ramiro Areas  
Joseph L. Blackman  
Gabriel De Armas  
Adrian I. Gilbert  
Carlos R. Lanzas  
Margine Rodriguez  
Barrington M. Sanders

## **Personnel Specialist 2**

Pamela Griffin

## **Semi-Skilled Laborer**

Jeree L. Albert  
Christopher M. Bethel  
Jean B. Eliacin  
Stuart C. Pomare  
Kingston Thony  
Laquashiss X. West

## **Special Projects**

### **Administrator 1**

Zach Gruenhagen

## **Trash Truck Driver 2**

Quinton Basden  
Alain J. Castineira  
Israel Cordero  
Kevin D. Cottman  
Jermaine Jackson  
Manny Perez  
David Remy

## **Waste Attendant 1**

Olajide Afolabi  
Maria Bernadin  
Jamal Brown  
Louis Dozier  
Carl Garcon  
Damion Glenn  
Rodrick Harden  
Jean Jeanty  
Ismael Jimenez  
Amolise Joseph  
Quintin Kemp  
Andre Nixon, Jr.  
Kolawole Orindare  
Chester Wallace  
Erin Weber  
Jasmine Young

## **Waste Enforcement Officer 1**

Lanoit Alexandre

## **Waste Scale Operator**

Wrenshall T. Gadson  
Dexter A. Quinn

## **Waste Truck Driver**

Kelvin C. Lee  
Jervon K. Purcell  
Howard A. Smith

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

## **3A Waste Collection**

Kim Bullard  
Waste Collector  
34 Years

Melvin Gamble  
Waste Truck Driver  
33 Years

Gregory Stewart  
Waste Truck Driver  
18 Years

## **3B Trash Collection**

Manuel Gonzalez  
Waste Attendant 1  
29 Years

Joseph Labissiere  
Trash Crane Operator  
34 Years

Mozella Thompson  
Trash Crane Operator  
21 Years

## **58th Street Garbage Collection**

Ronald Castillo  
Waste Truck Driver  
34 Years

Zenobia Moore  
Administrative Secretary  
34 Years

## **58th Street Trash Collection**

Wade Chow  
Trash Truck Driver 1  
29 Years

Clem Hamilton  
Trash Crane Operator  
29 Years

Robert Owens  
Waste Supervisor 1  
25 Years

Emerson Rock  
Trash Truck Driver 1  
19 Years

## **Accounting**

Mercedes Lopez  
Waste Service Clerk 2  
30 Years

## **Enforcement**

Glenda Barthell  
Waste Enforcement Officer 1  
35 Years

Evaristo Hernandez  
Waste Enforcement Officer 1  
23 Years

Judith Prado  
Waste Enforcement Officer 1  
21 Years

## **Human Resources**

Valerie Sandoval  
Human Resources Manager  
33 Years

Denna Starks  
Human Resources Manager  
35 Years

## **Mosquito Control**

Ramon Aristondo  
Mosquito Control Inspector  
20 Years

## **Northeast Transfer**

Timothy Adams  
Trash Truck Driver 2  
32 Years

Rudolph Morris  
Waste Attendant 1  
32 Years

Donald Thompson  
Waste Equipment Operator  
31 Years

## **Resources Recovery**

Gorki Carrillo  
Administrative Officer 2  
18 Years

Christy Cumbie  
Office Support Specialist 2  
17 Years

## **South Dade Landfill**

Kirk Bishop  
Waste Equipment Operator  
33 Years

Ronald McKinney  
Landfill Superintendent  
30 Years

Glory Wells  
Waste Scale Operator  
31 Years

Olen Wilfong  
Landfill Superintendent  
32 Years



## DSWM in the Community

**T**he DSWM Public Information and Outreach (PIO) Division has been busy attending various events and programs to share important information about the department's solid waste, recycling, and mosquito control services. Here are just some of the community engagement activities they've participated in:

- Celebrate Earth Eco Fair – DSWM held the annual Celebrate Earth Eco Fair at the West Little River TRC. The event featured document shredding, showerhead and light bulb exchange, live music by the Earthman Project, disposal of old/expired pharmaceuticals, voter registration, environmental education and information, and more.
- Recycling presentations and Career Day appearances were made at several schools including: Cutler Ridge Elementary, Assurant Satellite Learning Center, West Hialeah Gardens Elementary, Palm Lakes Elementary, Morningside K-8 Center, Howard Drive Elementary, Melrose Elementary, and Bridge Prep Academy South.
- Wellness Fair at Stephen P. Clark Government Center.
- Recycling presentations for children: North Dade Regional, South Dade Regional, West End Regional, West Dade Regional, and Palmetto Bay Branch libraries.
- WE+LAB (Water and Energy + Learning and Behavior) presentations: Dante Fascell Elementary, Village of Pinecrest, and City of Miami Beach.

The PIO Division continues to educate and inform the community about the many important services provided by DSWM, and we thank the DSWM staff for all of their support in our outreach activities.



**PIO Division staff with "Earthman" Lanny Smith at Eco Fair.**



**Recycling Manager Jeanmarie Massa at Cutler Ridge Elementary.**



**Jeanmarie Massa at the Wellness Fair.**



**Recycling display at WE+LAB at the City of Miami Beach.**

## NACo Achievement Award, Plus SWANA Excellence!

**A**rguably, it's probably not even news anymore: once again, the department has won an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo)!

This makes six years in a row that the department has won this prestigious award. This year's winning entry was the "Recycle This, Not That!" Educational 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 Hudak.

The "Recycle This, Not That!" Educational Campaign was created with the County's Communications Department to help reduce the amount of unacceptable items in the County's recycling program, by educating residents on what can and cannot be recycled. The campaign plays off of the title of the popular "Eat This, Not That" weight loss magazine and books.

The purpose of the campaign is to educate residents on what can and—most importantly—what cannot be recycled in the county's recycling program.

Oh yes, and we're not finished: the "Recycle This, Not That!" campaign also won an award from the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)! The campaign received a silver 2016 SWANA Excellence Award in the category of Communication, Education & Marketing – AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.

According to David Biderman, SWANA Executive Director and CEO, "The recipients of the SWANA Excellence Awards represent the best solid waste management practices in North America today. Community leaders should be very proud of the valuable contributions that these projects provide to their citizens."



## Recycling Savings!

Miami-Dade's recycling efforts helped save the following during the last fiscal year (October 2015 through September 2016):

- 420,562 mature trees
- 101.14 million kilowatt hours of electricity
- 154,513 cubic yards of landfill airspace

Additionally, the County helped avoid the release of 55,754 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions and the County's waste-to-energy facility generated 50.725 million kilowatt hours of electricity from waste

## Don't Mess With Dr. Janet McAllister

Whether you're a human or—especially—a mosquito, you don't want to mess with Dr. Janet McAllister. The tae kwon do black belt and board-certified entomologist has been working in the field of mosquito control for more than 30 years.

Most recently Dr. McAllister was assigned by her employer, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to assist Miami-Dade Mosquito Control in the fight against Zika.

Dr. McAllister considers working in Miami-Dade to be a career highlight. "It's because of the involvement in emergency response, the opportunity to make a difference and be involved in historical events like Zika," she said.

The soft-spoken Dr. McAllister earned her PhD at the University of Arkansas, worked in mosquito, termite and rodent control in New Orleans and is past president of the American Mosquito Control Association.



**Janet McAllister, PhD, BCE.**

Most of Dr. McAllister's work involves research in insecticide resistance. Her work with our Mosquito Control division was very helpful and led to Mosquito Control successfully using new insecticides and techniques to control the mosquito population in Miami-Dade County.

"After 12 years I still love to get up and do my job," said Dr. McAllister. Miami-Dade County is grateful she loves to get up and do her job, too.

When she's not busy working, Dr. McAllister keeps busy. As mentioned before, she holds a black belt in the Korean martial art of tae kwon do—she earned it at the same time her 13-year-old son and husband earned theirs. She is also heavily involved in the Boy Scouts and enjoys reading, gardening and spending time with her family, which includes a 17-year-old daughter in addition to her husband and son.

## GFOA, 22 Years Running

**T**he Department won yet another prestigious award. This one for a remarkable 22 years in a row!

The Department last year received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). This marks the 22nd consecutive year the Waste Management Enterprise Fund (under both Public Works and Waste Management and as the Department of Solid Waste Management) has been recognized by GFOA with this prestigious honor.

The honor was bestowed upon the department for its Comprehensive Annual

Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015.

Not everyone can win a GFOA Certificate of Achievement. In order to win one, a government agency is required to produce an easy-to-read and efficiently organized CAFR. The CAFR must also satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

Congratulations to the Accounting Division on a job very well done!



### Reducing Our Carbon Footprint

*The department is using several vehicles that run on compressed natural gas (CNG), such as the one in this photo. CNG burns cleaner than gasoline and diesel fuel.*



**Department Director Alina Hudak and Assistant Director – Fiscal and Internal Services Aneisha Daniel recognize DSWM Controller Maria Sanchez, CPA, for a job well done.**

### FOLLOW US

[www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeSolidWaste](https://www.facebook.com/MiamiDadeSolidWaste)

[twitter.com/MiamiDadeSWM](https://twitter.com/MiamiDadeSWM)



### Solid Waste Works

111 N.W. 1st St. • 16th Floor • Miami, FL 33128  
[www.miamidadecounty.com/solidwaste](http://www.miamidadecounty.com/solidwaste)



360-1617-29819 2/2017



**Carlos A. Gimenez**  
MAYOR

### BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.**  
CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT 13

**Audrey M. Edmonson**  
VICE CHAIRWOMAN, DISTRICT 3

**Barbara J. Jordan**  
DISTRICT 1

**Jean Monestime**  
DISTRICT 2

**Sally A. Heyman**  
DISTRICT 4

**Bruno A. Barreiro**  
DISTRICT 5

**Rebeca Sosa**  
DISTRICT 6

**Xavier L. Suarez**  
DISTRICT 7

**Daniella Levine Cava**  
DISTRICT 8

**Dennis C. Moss**  
DISTRICT 9

**Senator Javier D. Souto**  
DISTRICT 10

**Joe A. Martinez**  
DISTRICT 11

**José "Pepe" Diaz**  
DISTRICT 12

**Harvey Ruvin**  
CLERK OF COURTS

**Pedro J. Garcia**  
PROPERTY APPRAISER

**Abigail Price-Williams**  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

**Alina T. Hudak**  
DEPUTY MAYOR AND  
DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

**Paul Mauriello**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR,  
WASTE MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS

**Aneisha Daniel**  
DSWM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Gayle Love**  
SENIOR DIVISION DIRECTOR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION & OUTREACH DIVISION

**Frank Calderon**  
EDITOR

**James Richards**  
CONTRIBUTOR