

Pipe *line*

Produced by the Public Affairs staff of the Philadelphia Water Department. For more information, please contact Editor Joan Anne Przybylowicz at 685-4900.

PWD Strives to Reduce Emissions

Since October 1994, we have been conducting a pilot project at the Southwest Water Pollution Control Plant to evaluate alternative methods for handling three byproducts of the wastewater treatment process at all three of our water pollution control plants. These products are screenings, grit and scum. The purpose of the pilot project is to develop a long-term, comprehensive plan for collecting, mixing and disposing of these byproducts. Currently we are landfilling these byproducts rather than incinerating them. During the course of the project, we have shut down all grit and scum incinerators at all of our plants, except for one incinerator at the Southwest Plant.

Based on the findings of the pilot project, we will evaluate each wastewater treatment plant's capability to collect and mix its own screenings, grit and scum. Our preliminary research indicates there will be less environmental impact to the communities surrounding each plant and that it will be more cost-efficient and operationally feasible for each plant to handle and dispose of its own byproducts independently. The amount of air emissions generated at each plant will be significantly reduced if we shift to landfills instead of incineration.

A special task force, made up of representatives from Operations, Planning and Engineering, and Public Affairs, has been charged with developing and recommending a comprehensive plan to handle the byproducts. The plan must:

- meet environmental regulatory requirements, such as recent changes to the Clean Air Act;
- have no adverse impact upon surrounding communities;
- be practical for smooth operations of the treatment plants; and
- be cost efficient.

What are screenings, grit and scum?

When wastewater enters a water pollution control plant, it goes through primary treatment first where a series of operations removes most of the solids that can be screened out, that will settle to the bottom of the tanks, or that will float on top of the water.

Screenings are tree limbs and branches, rags, wood, plastics and other large floating objects that can clog pipes and disable treatment plant pumps and equipment. They are removed from wastewater by bar screens which have mechanical rakes.

Grit is sand and gravel. In the city's sewer system, grit becomes coated with grease and other organic matter from sewage. Grit is removed from wastewater in a chamber which has large tanks designed to slow the flow of the wastewater long enough for the grit to settle to the bottom of the tanks.

Scum is fats, oils, grease, vegetable and fruit wastes, small pieces of wood, cork, small plastic objects, bottles and other small floating materials. Scum is skimmed from the surface of wastewater in settling tanks.

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Stormwater Education CAC

In an effort to develop a public education and participation program to reduce stormwater runoff pollution, PWD has created a Stormwater Education Citizen Advisory Council (CAC).

The 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act require municipalities to apply for stormwater discharge permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and to educate citizens on the effect stormwater has on water quality. The CAC will play a major role in determining which educational tools will be used to convey pollution-prevention information to the public.

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 "Most Philadelphians are unaware of the connection between stormwater, the sewer system, and water quality in local streams and the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers," said Commissioner Kumar Kishinchand.



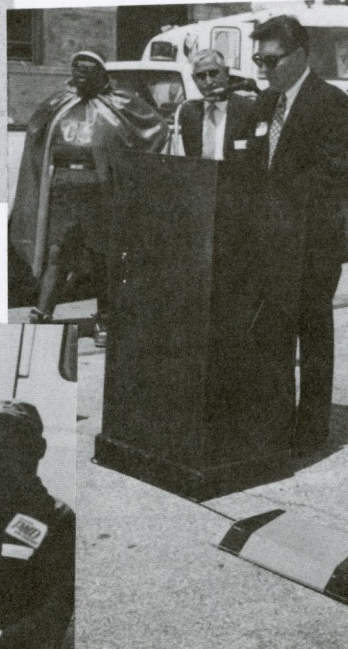
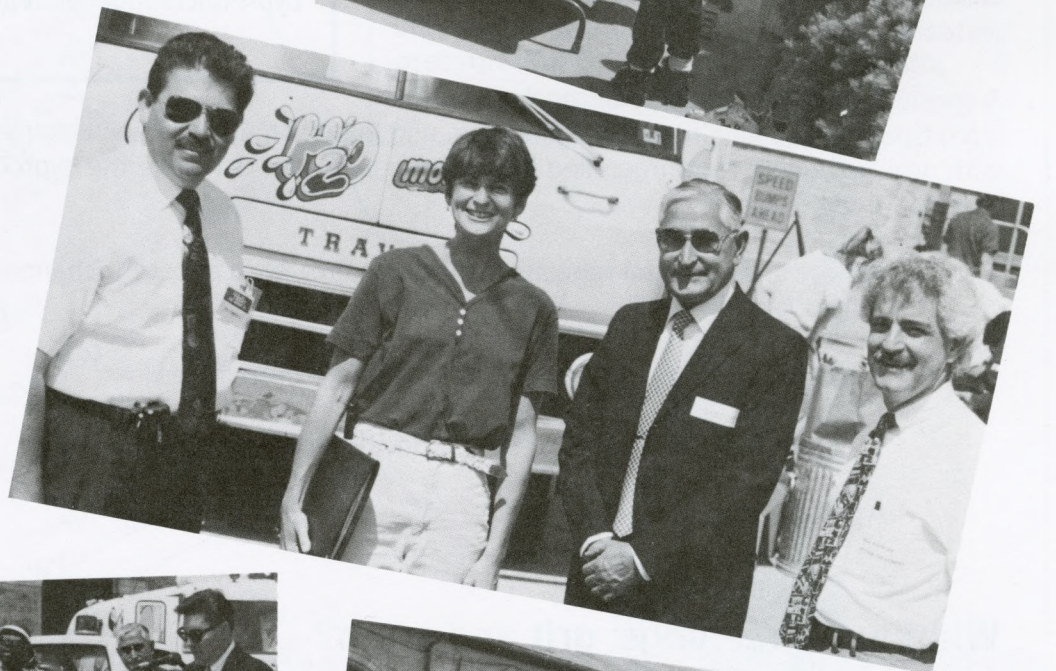
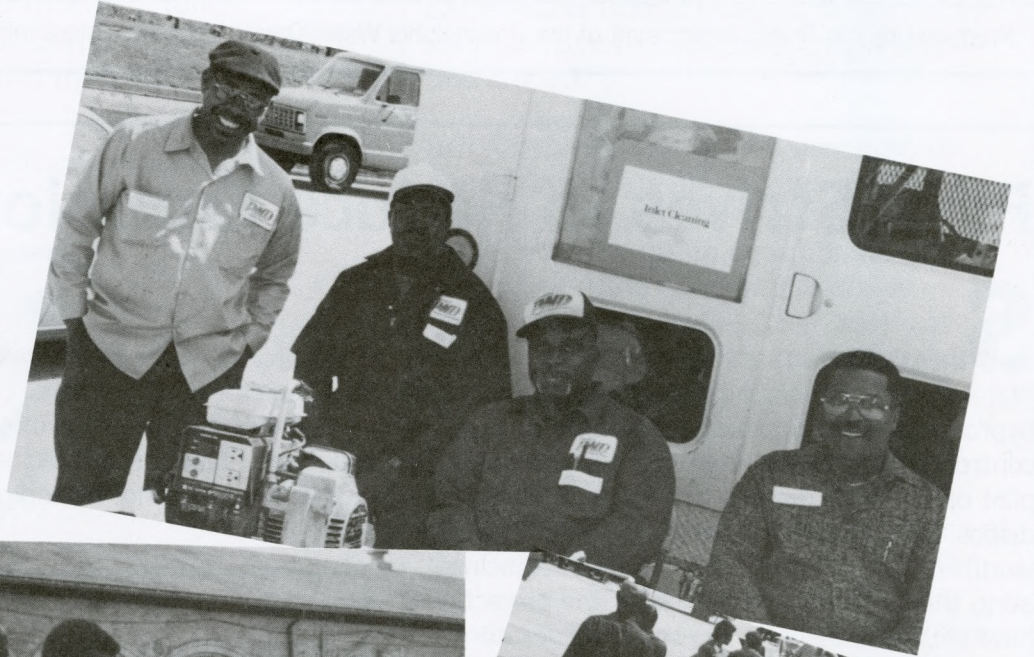
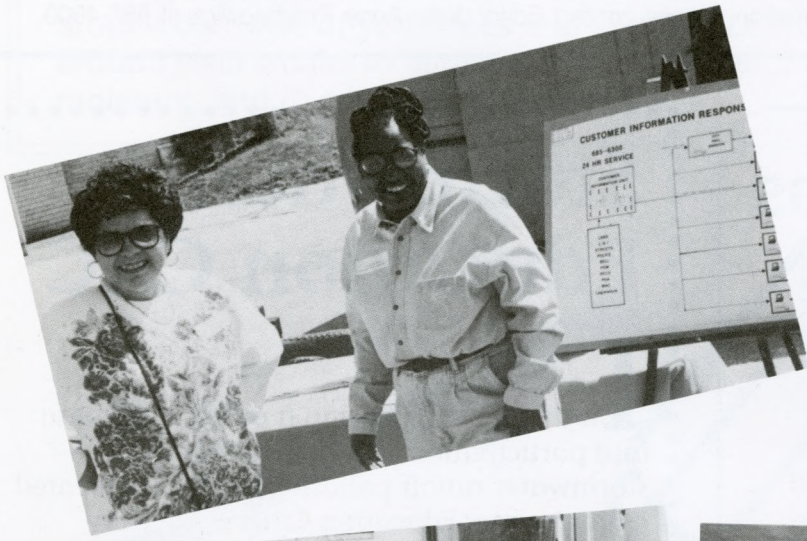
The goals of the CAC are to:

- develop and distribute educational materials to local residents, organizations and media on controlling pollutants;
- co-sponsor educational programs with local organizations and workshops on construction site management for pollution control;

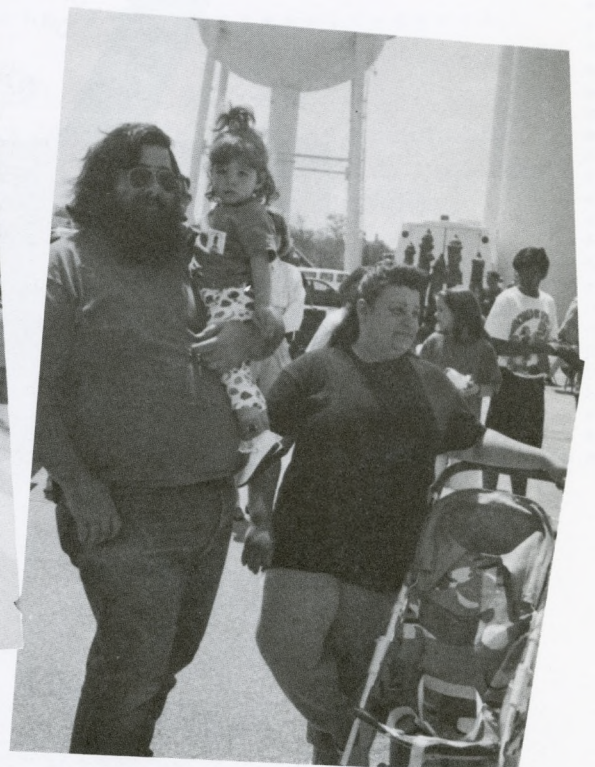
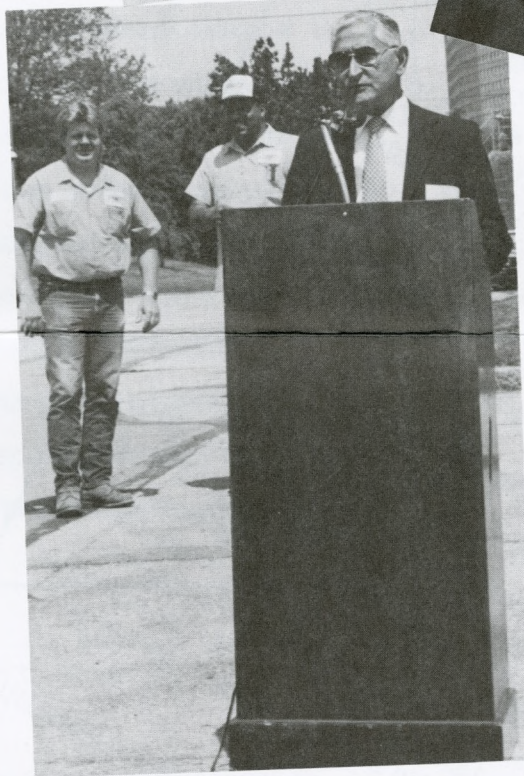
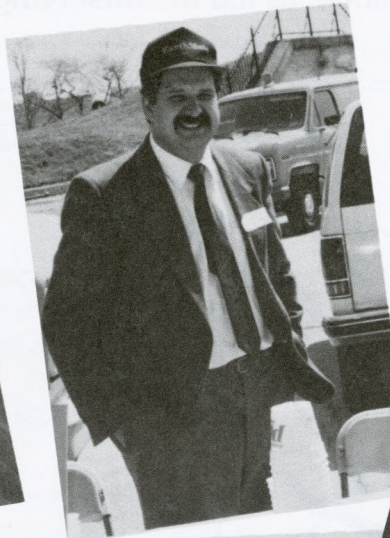
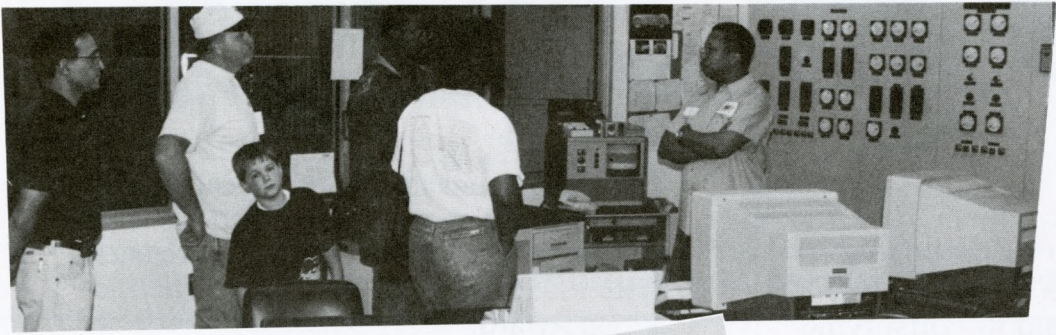
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**Inside! Special!
 1995
 Belmont Plant
 Open House!
 Super Photos!**

1995 Open House AT BELMONT PLANT SATURDAY, MAY 13



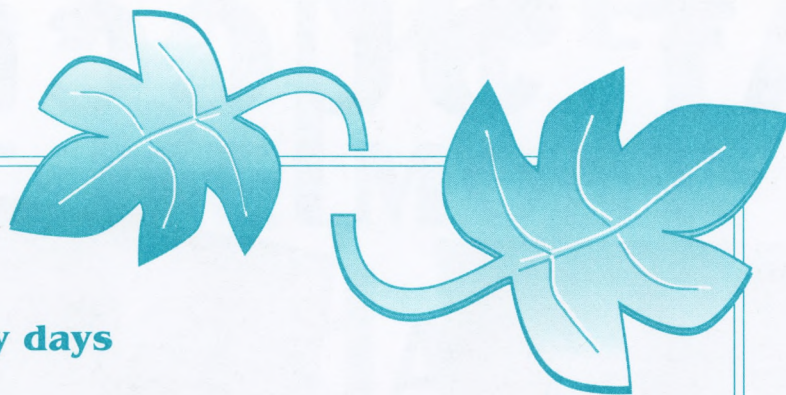
A GREAT SUCCESS!



JULY

Those hazy, crazy days of summer!

Insulate the roots of your shrubs and trees against the dog days of summer heat. Apply a 2-inch layer of EarthMate around the base of your trees and shrubs. Leave a 2-inch space around their trunks to allow free air exchange, to aid in conserving moisture, and to suppress weed growth.



Queen Lane Power House Gets Award

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission selected the Queen Lane Power House restoration project for its 1995 Historic Preservation Construction Award.

In 1909 the Power Station was built to house the boilers and pumps used to provide water for cleaning the filters and the electrical lighting equipment. It was built on the side of an embankment—really a reservoir wall—to conceal the prefilter galleries, preliminary filters and basins.

The Power Station is a remarkable example of Beaux-Arts architecture not commonly found in Philadelphia. Much of the facade is decorated with terra-cotta sea creatures, gargoyles, star fish and conch shells. These oceanographic terra-cotta decorations are the subject of the recently restored project coordinated with Ortega Consulting and John Bowie Associates.

John Vencius, division engineer, Bud Walsh, project manager, Paul Wesselt and Jerry Sissian, project inspectors, supervised the work through its completion in the fall of 1994.

Today the Queen Lane Power Station provides water to wash the filtration beds in the north basin. It also serves as a high service booster station providing water pressure for the East Falls, Roxborough, Manayunk and Germantown districts.

Kumar Kishinchand
Water Commissioner
ARAMARK Tower
1101 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Dear Commissioner:

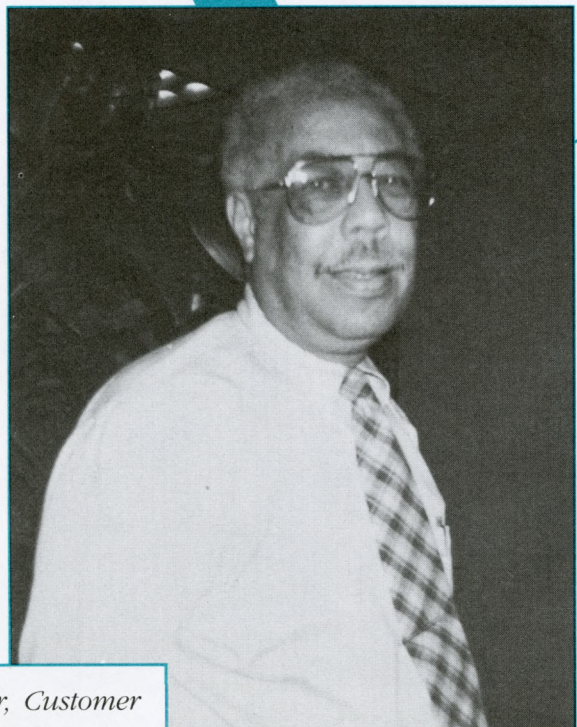
We own various kinds of real estate in the city of Philadelphia. Every now and then, we have minor or sometimes major problems in dealing with the different branches of the City. Most times we have come into the City to rectify whatever problem we have; some of the city employees are courteous, friendly and helpful, most are not.

I want to report a gentleman that I had the extreme pleasure to meet. His name is George Fisher who works for the Water Department at the offices located on North 29th Street. This man could work for me anytime. First he met me with a smile. He listened, showed concern, gave advice, said what he will do, was courteous, friendly and knew what he was talking about. He is the epitome of what any public servant should strive to be.

WHAT A PLEASURE, WHAT A GENTLEMAN!!

Thank you.

Yours truly,
Joseph Gatta
Wynnewood, PA



George Fisher, Customer Service Manager



(continued from front page)

- design a stormwater educational program for the Philadelphia school system.

Some CAC representatives are from organizations such as the Wissahickon Interested Citizens Association, the Friends of Pennypack Park, the Bridesburg Civic Association, the Friends of Tacony Creek Park, and the Riverkeeper Network/ Watershed Association of the Delaware River.

A lack of public awareness is, in fact, one cause of the city's stormwater pollution problem, because people often use storm drains as disposal sites for hazardous materials like motor oil and antifreeze and other trash. We hope the CAC is successful in educating the public about stormwater pollution and getting the message out that everyone can make a difference.