

pipeline

Philadelphia Water Department Employee Newsletter • Published by the Public Relations Unit • March 1997

ALL FIRED UP!

The Philadelphia Water Department's Training Unit, in conjunction with the Industrial Training and Testing Institute (ITTI) and Community College of Philadelphia, offered Biosolids

During the welder training course, BRC employees received hands-on instruction, helping them to perfect their skills.



Recycling Center employees a Welder Training course. From January 7 to February 13, 1997, participating employees attended 96 hours of training on various subjects including shielded metal, gas metal and gas tungsten arc welding.



From left to right: Paul Day, Sherman Harris, Mike Fallon, Bruce Meskill, Morris Willis, Christopher Nichols, Chester Turner and Jerome Shabazz.

This is the second training course offered through the Philadelphia Water Department and the Community College of Philadelphia during the past two months. In December's *Pipeline*, we highlighted the Water Treatment Plant Operators' Training program, a successful and beneficial experience for trades personnel from various units within PWD. Jerome Shabazz, PWD's training assistant for trades, hopes to see the same success evolve from this Welder Training course.

On February 13, the Training Unit awarded certificates of completion to the employees who successfully met the requirements of this course. Christopher Nichols, a Biosolids Recycling Center employee, felt that the course improved

his welding skills and made his job easier. "The hands-on experience which the course provided had greater benefit for me than just learning from books," he said. "It gave me more self-confidence in my work." Sherman Harris, maintenance group supervisor, agrees, "I have great confidence in the accuracy of my employees' work, and I can trust their ability to do a precise job at all times."

The Water Department hopes to continue collaborating with Community College of Philadelphia in developing future training courses. Look for more about these training courses in future issues of *Pipeline*.

IN FULL BLOOM WITH PWD

The 1997 Philadelphia Flower Show is in full bloom at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, March 2-9. The Water Department's exhibit, entitled "Biosolids Recycling: The Ultimate Exchange Between People, Places, and Plants," will be displayed. The exhibit shows the benefits of using recycled biosolids for enhancing and restoring soil. It also shows the natural science behind recycling biosolids collected from the wastewater treatment process.

This exhibit helps visitors understand how Philadelphians can return essential organic matter and nutrients, lost through farming or disturbed by mining, to poor soils. They will also learn how to use recycled biosolids products to enhance the soil in their own flower and vegetable gardens. The Flower Show continues to be a huge attraction for both visitors and PWD employees. This year, many PWD employees have volunteered to help make the Water Department's exhibit among the most attractive and informative.

This year's exhibit highlights the three main applications for recycled biosolids. These are

MineMix™, which builds soil productivity in mine reclamation; Farm+™, a farmland fertilizer; and EarthMate, a soil amendment which conditions turf and rejuvenates vegetable and flower

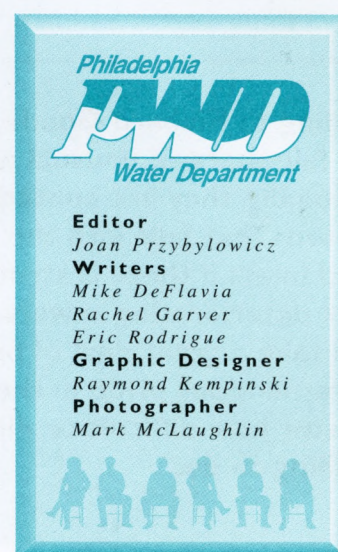


PWD's exhibit at last year's Philadelphia Flower Show was a great success thanks to the hard work of employees and volunteers.

gardens. These products, especially EarthMate, are used by many organizations in the Philadelphia area, including the new CoreStates Center, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Awbury Arboretum, the 1300

Thompson Street Block Association and George Washington High School.

EarthMate helps to provide safe, attractive turf, healthy green grass, and beautiful blooming flowers like those on display at the Flower Show. If you would like the same results from your flower or vegetable garden, visit the Water Department's exhibit at the Flower Show, get a free bag of EarthMate, and watch your garden grow.



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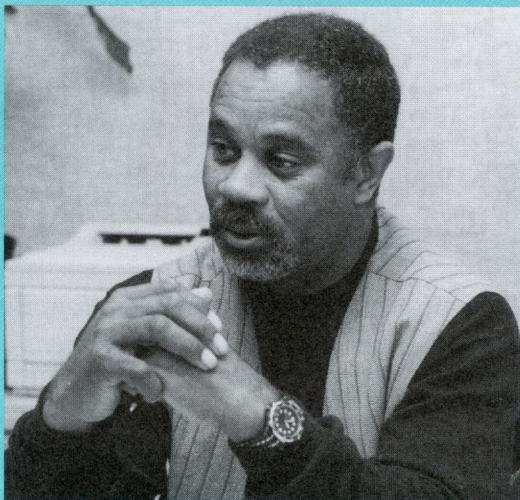
Spotlight on:

Sewer Maintenance

The winter weather doesn't keep the Sewer Maintenance Unit employees home with the blues. Instead, they don their PWD blues and brave the cold to respond to sewer and damaged inlet problems. If a sewer pipe breaks or clogs, or a water main break damages a sewer, one of PWD's 27 Sewer Maintenance crews will be out to fix the problem.

Headquartered at PWD's Fox and Abbottsford facility, Sewer Maintenance is one of the Department's busiest units, especially during winter months. Constant freezing and thawing during the winter makes water mains more prone to breaking. This can mean more work for Sewer Maintenance employees if sewers near a water main break are damaged.

One of the top priorities of the Sewer Maintenance Division is making sure that sewer clogs and ruptures don't cause sewage to back up into homes or waterways. Working with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Sewer Maintenance does all it can to ensure that our neighborhoods and waterways are clean and free of polluting sewage.



Sewer Maintenance Superintendent Richard Goode praises his employees for their hard work and dedication.

Superintendent Richard Goode manages the 165 employees in the Water Department's Sewer Maintenance Unit. These employees inspect inlets and repair problems occurring in the City's 3,000 miles of sewers. Because it functions primarily as a complaint driven unit, Sewer Maintenance employees respond to calls from customers, the Streets, Recreation, and Police Departments, as well as other agencies. No matter how cold the weather, Sewer Maintenance crews are always there to examine and fix sewer and inlet problems as they arise.



A Sewer Maintenance crew works hard on a snowy day to fix a crumbling sewer wall in Northwest Philadelphia.

According to Richard Goode, the Sewer Maintenance Unit has its fair share of unusual and difficult assignments. Occasionally, they are contacted to locate a ring or other small item that falls into the sewer. Other times they fix badly clogged inlets if there is structural damage. Still other times, they fix deteriorating sewers. But, even after all of this, Goode says, "I take a great deal of pride in my employees and they take tremendous pride in their jobs. We have never had a job, no matter how difficult or dirty, that they weren't prepared and willing to do."

Mr. Ernest Poaches, Metering Manager
Philadelphia Water Department
Metering Unit
29th & Cambria Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19132

Dear Mr. Poaches:

It is not often that a meter person comes into our facility to service our needs, be it gas, electric or water, and display the pleasant treatment that I received from Gregory Ewell on November 1, 1996. This young man entered our facility at Rittenhouse Care Center to check an old meter for replacement. He was very informative and a true gentleman to form. I appreciate this type of professionalism and attention to customer service. Please thank him for a job well done!

Sincerely,
Paul Barksdale, Director of Environmental Services
Rittenhouse Care Center

Dear Commissioner Kishinchand:

It is both appropriate and ironic that I am writing this letter of thanks to you in the midst of a tremendous rain storm, our arch nemesis for the past 19 summers. This is the first summer since we've been in residence here that severe rains haven't sent several feet of rank water coursing through our garages and basements. This is the first time we haven't had to scurry about to move our cars out of our garages onto the street where there was far less chance of them being inundated. This is the first time we haven't had to prop open our back basement doors, allowing the rushing water to continue on its way.

This new-found peace of mind is the result of an extensive storm flood relief project just completed under the auspices of your department. This project, now in place and operating, was designed by your most competent staff of engineers, including Stan Carter. The project's Engineering Supervisors Eugene Mudry and Jeff Simmet took a very difficult set of conditions and created a system that has "weathered the storm" marking its maiden voyage. I really feel the need to cite others of your staff as well. Joanne Dahme, your Public Affairs General Manager, was my contact person, and too frequently, the recipient of my wrath each time the properties flooded. She was always extremely tolerant of my behavior, always promising to do her utmost to conclude the problem. And she did!

John Mirkil came to the site countless times, during and after storms, to see the havoc and damage the rains had wrought. Your on-site manager, Bud McKeogh, was attentive to every detail and kept us, the residents, apprised of the project's course. To show his attention to "bring in a perfect job" I can report that he visited the project site several times since its completion to check on its operation.

Now, when it rains, we can trust that our properties and houses are safe. This storm flood relief project has made a tremendous difference to all of us and we are very appreciative of the hard-working Water Department employees that made this possible. Each of these people has done a job above and beyond the ordinary and we, the residents of Rennard Street in the far Northeast, are especially grateful to them.

Very truly yours,
Barbara Z.



TOP ROW:
Gregg Ewell
Water Meter Service Worker, Metering Unit
Bud McKeogh
Construction Projects Technician II, Construction Unit
Eugene Mudry
Engineering Supervisor II, Water and Sewer Systems Planning Unit

MIDDLE ROW:
Stan Carter
Engineering Aide III, Design Unit
John Mirkil
Civil Engineer II, Design Unit

BOTTOM ROW:
Jeff Simmet
Engineering Supervisor I, Water and Sewer
Joanne Dahme
General Manager, Public Affairs Division