



A newsletter of the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, a wastewater treatment plant serving eleven member municipalities:

East Orange
Hillside
Irvington
Maplewood
Millburn
Newark
Roselle Park
South Orange
Summit
Union
West Orange

Also serving
Elizabeth
Livingston
Orange
New Providence



2000 Joint Meeting
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Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins,
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Vice Chair/Secretary, Maplewood
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Treasurer, South Orange

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Anthony Benevento, West Orange
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Executive Director
Bryan J. Christiansen

JOINT MEETING NEWS

Spring 2000

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Chaneyfield Jenkins – A Life of Service to Others

Armed with pride and persistence, this native daughter of Newark has dedicated herself to a life of service to the people and communities that, collectively, comprise New Jersey's largest city. As a lifelong resident of the City of Newark, Gayle knows, first-hand, the issues that are important to Newark's residents and, with respect and sensitivity, is responsive to their needs. Putting people first, she is a compassionate and responsive leader, firmly committed to addressing and improving the quality of life for all of Newark's residents.



Council Member Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins was born in Newark and grew up in Hayes Homes and Bradley Court, both part of the city's public housing system. Upon graduating from Queen of Angels Grammar School and Sister Clara Muhammad High School, she continued her formal education at Bloomfield College, majoring in business administration.

Gayle pursued her passion by graduating from the Intensive Chef Program of the New York Restaurant School of Cooking. As a professional food service manager, she served as a chef and banquet manager to some of the areas leading restaurants.

Reflecting back on the days when she worked as a youth counselor, the Council Member considers that period and the subsequent time spent serving as a liaison between the community and schools, as a great learning experience. Undoubtedly, this "training," coupled with her profound love for children, laid the foundation for her continued advocacy on behalf of children and issues affecting our youth.

Prior to her election to the Newark Municipal Council, for three years she was employed by the New Community Corporation, and went on to serve as Director of Public Relations and Marketing for Babyland Family Services. Capitalizing on the opportunity to

(continued on p. 3)

Inside This Issue

- 2 Focus On the City of Newark
- 4 Employee Milestones
- 4 Perfect Attendance Awards
- 5 Employee News
- 6 Plant News

The City of Newark

Newark was founded in 1666 by Captain Robert Treat, who purchased the land from the Hackensack Indians with the consent of the Royal Governor of New Jersey, Philip Carteret. It was founded as a theocracy - an attempt to establish the Kingdom of God on earth - and in its early years the village and the church were synonymous.

Each family was allotted six acres along two broad thoroughfares, now known as Broad and Market Streets. It was first named Milford, since many settlers were from Milford, Connecticut. Later it was named Newark in honor of its first pastor, Reverend Abraham Pierson, who had been ordained in Newark-on-Trent in England. In 1713 Newark was incorporated as a town by Queen Anne.

In 1836 Newark formally became a city. It was incorporated as "The Mayor and Common Council of the City of Newark." In 1917 Newark became the City of Newark and in 1953 voters approved a mayor council form of government with a non-partisan mayor and a nine member council. Newark's economic development began slowly in the 18th century. The town began selling cider, lumber and stone to other communities. The opening of the Morris Canal and two railroads in the 1830s brought about major industries. Only 20,000 residents lived in Newark in 1836.

By the end of the 1800s, the population rose to 250,000. Newcomers arrived from Ireland, Germany, Italy, Eastern Europe, and later from the American South and the Caribbean. Newark factories produced carriages, clothing, shoes, paint, food, beer and many other products.

The population peaked in 1930 at 442,842. The Depression and World War II wrought great social and economic changes to the city. Following the war, many residents moved to the suburbs. New growth was concentrated in finance, insurance, government, education, health care and transportation. The shift in the economy caused problems for the city's remaining and new residents. Jobs decreased and poverty increased during the 1960s.

Recently, Newark has seen a turn around with Downtown Newark leading the rebirth. New housing, the clearing of old slums, five new college campuses, new office buildings, New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the Newark Bears are just some of the positive changes taking place. Plans are also under way to bring professional basketball and professional hockey to the city. Newark's future will continue to be dynamic. Newark is growing and changing and is well on its way to providing a better quality of life for all of its citizens in the 21st century.



A view of City Hall on Broad Street in the City of Newark. The historic building with its gold dome has been recently renovated.



Jack Howard, Wastewater Treatment Operator, giving blood during the Blood Drive on April 6, 2000 at the Joint Meeting.

Chaneyfield Jenkins

(continued from p. 1)

improve the quality of life for our children, she was instrumental in expanding Babyland's community service by creating the Summer Enrichment Program. Under her leadership, the innovative and model program provides necessary educational, cultural and recreational activities for the area youth age 5 to 13.

Since her election to the Municipal Council in November 1995, Gayle is more resolved and committed than ever to improving the quality of life for all Newark's citizens. She is the Founder and Director of 1001 Women for Change, a community based organization, which advocates for the improvement in political and social policy. In addition, Council Member Chaneyfield Jenkins is an avid supporter of numerous community service oriented organizations. She continues to make contributions through her service on the Newark City Council as Council Member-at-Large and through her advocacy and support of community based organizations. The idea is that these issues contribute to the stability of families and the well being of youth in Newark.

During her first term as an elected official, out of the need to improve the lives of all the citizens of Newark, especially the youth, she spearheaded and formed the Quality of Life and Technology Committees. The Quality of Life Committee focuses on programs that address drugs, recreation, education and clean & safe corridors. Additional initiatives as a result of the Quality of Life Committee have been First Night Newark, Senior Gospel Concerts, "Soulful Celebration" Christmas Concerts and the Community Views Newspaper. The Technology Committee contributes to the education and training of the citizens of Newark, helping to share in the benefits of the Information Age.

New Board Members Seated

At the first meeting in the new millennium on January 20, 2000, the Joint Meeting Board of Directors selected Hon. Gayle H. Chaneyfield Jenkins of Newark as Chairperson of the eleven member wastewater treatment facility. Gayle had been a representative on the Board from the City of Newark since January 1998.

The former Board Chairperson, Hon. Ellen M. Davenport of Maplewood, a long time member of the Board, was voted the Board's Vice Chairperson and Secretary for the year 2000. Hon. Stephen Steglitz of South Orange was selected the Board's new Treasurer.

In addition to the new officers on the executive board, new members were seated from East Orange, Union and Roselle Park. Hon. Carol Y. Clark returned to the Board representing the City of East Orange. Hon. Anthony Terrezza also returned to the Board. Mr. Terrezza represents the Township of Union. Finally, Hon. Linda Tancs of Roselle Park was selected for her first term on the Board of Directors.

Committee assignments were made at the Board of Director's February 17, 2000 monthly meeting. A list of the committee members are on page 6.

Moreover, she spearheaded the following major legislation: Environmental Opportunity Zone, Posting of Promotional and Political Signs, Direct and Revolving Loan Program, Panhandling Ordinance, Tobacco and Alcohol Advertisement, Downtown Special Improvement District (SID) along with the tribute to Ronald H. Brown.

During her second term, she has worked on economic development through Corridor Improvement, Tourism, Parking Study Impact, International Trade & Commerce, Japan Air Routes, and Linking Africa through economic development. As a result, the City of Newark has partnered with NJPAC, Metropolitan and Barrister Entertainment to start the annual New Jersey Arts & Music Festival. In turn, this will help in putting Newark's name back on the map as a tourist destination.

In addition, further development has occurred in Technology with the development of the Millennium Project, which has started training Newark citizens, helping to prepare them to become more marketable and to ultimately emerge as the new work force in our city. In closing, she says, "My first and foremost interest is improving and enriching the lives of all people of Newark."

Annual Perfect Attendance Awards for 1999

Seven employees achieved perfect attendance records during the year 1999. The list included three employees represented by Teamster's Local 575 and four employees from management.



This was a drop from 1998 when five union and seven non-union employees reached perfect attendance records. Employees reaching this goal were:

Stephen Dowhan	Project Coordinator
James Gibson	Wastewater Treatment Operator
Pete Hamma	Facility Manager
Jack Kennedy	Assistant Superintendent
Marcelo Kofman	Sewer Maintenance Worker
Clyde Lauderdale	Boiler Operator
Jim Paluch	Collection System Engineer

Pete Hamma has reached the goal for three consecutive years, and Steve Dowhan, Jim Paluch and Clyde Lauderdale have had perfect attendance records for two years in a row. Winners selected gifts of their choice. Gifts included a AM/PM clock radio, a toaster, and a wet/dry vacuum. All employees are encouraged to strive toward the goal of perfect attendance for the year 2000.



From left, James Gibson, Wastewater Treatment Operator, Bryan J. Christiansen, Executive Director, Marcelo Kofman, Sewer Maintenance Worker, and Joseph Bonaccorso, Plant Superintendent. Gibson and Kofman were the recipients of perfect attendance awards for calendar year 1999.

Employee Service Milestones

Twenty-two employees are reaching milestone anniversaries for their years of service to Joint Meeting during the year 2000. They are:

30 years	Vincent Corsentino , Collection Sys. Supv.	10 years	James Gibson , W.W. Operator Pete Hamma , Facility Manager Walter Rivera , Site Services Worker Eric Sanabria , Foreman, Site Services Jim Whalen , Boiler Operator Howard Zimmerman , W.W. Operator
20 years	Ana Albuquerque , Executive Secretary Cathy Martinson , Pretreatment Coord.	5 years	Bryan J. Christiansen , Executive Director Steve Dowhan , Project Coordinator Mary Edwards , Lab Technician Jim Paluch , Collection System Engineer Jason Samuel , Lab Technician Pete Vlasakakis , Site Services Worker
15 years	Ralph Concepcion , Site Services Worker Joe Mazza , W.W. Operator Stan Wojcik , W.W. Operator		
10 years	Terry Cole-Kelly , Safety Officer Paul Cuttino , W.W. Operator Morgan Frierson , W.W. Operator George Gerges , Electrician		

Congratulations to all and best wishes for many more years at Joint Meeting.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Ramon Vara, Team Supervisor in our Operations Department, was assigned to coordinate training for the Joint Meeting. His first order of business will be to begin cross training operators within the Operations Department; later he may expand training efforts to other areas Congratulations to **Mike Richardson**, Team Supervisor, who completed the requirements for and passed the exam for an S-4 license **Jason Samuel**, Laboratory Technician, has completed the necessary credits and has earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Science in a program co-sponsored by Rutgers University and New Jersey Institute of Technology; that's a real

accomplishment considering he is employed full time . . . **John McNamara**, Team Supervisor, has been temporarily assigned to assist our Project Coordinator, **Stephen Dowhan**; he will be focusing on the SCADA survey project and field observations of the grit and screenings facility rehabilitation project. Four new employees started with the Joint Meeting recently. **Charles Motley**, our new Site Services Worker, is a Newark resident, and began with Joint Meeting in November, 1999. Two new wastewater treatment operators were hired for the Operations Department **Ray Padilla**, who also hails from Newark, was hired in December, 1999 and has wastewater experience and a block seal license **John Crawley**, who lives in Bloomfield, has wastewater experience with an S-2 license. He began in January, 2000. Also, Industrial Pretreatment hired an Environmental Officer, **Steve Mercandetti**, in February, 2000. Steve has a B.A. degree in Environmental Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and resides in Kinnelon **Jim Paluch**, who has been the Environmental Officer in the Industrial Pretreatment Department since 1995, has successfully passed the test for his C-4 license. Congratulations to Jim for his efforts. It's a lot of preparation, studying and hard work **Glen Riscen**, a Wastewater Treatment Operator since 1996, has earned his S-1 license. Congratulations to Glen for passing the course and test.



A view of the new Dechlorination Facility which is being constructed by Scuffor Construction of Newark, New Jersey. This building is located at the west side of the aeration basins. This facility is necessary to meet the N.J. Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit. It will remove chlorine from the plant effluent. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2000.

Board Committees 2000

The Board of Directors standing committee assignments for the 1st half of 2000 are:

Operations Committee
Chair: William E. Rosen
Anthony Benevento
Carol Y. Clark
Sal J. Bate

**Public Relations
Committee**
Chair: Carol Y. Clark
Sal J. Bate
William Rosen
Anthony Benevento

**Finance & Budget
Committee**
Chair: Stephen A. Steglitz
Lebby C. Jones
John G. Kulish
Anthony Terrezza

**Personnel & Procurement
Committee**
Chair: Lebby C. Jones
Anthony Terrezza
Ellen M. Davenport
John G. Kulish



**Joint Meeting of Essex and
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Wastewater Plant &
Administrative Offices
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Joint Meeting Administrative Staff

Executive Director
Chief Engineer
Plant Superintendent
Director of Administration and Finance
Director of Human Resources
Pretreatment Coordinator
Project Coordinator
Purchasing Officer
Assistant Board Secretary/Financial Assistant
Assistant Superintendent - Operations/Maintenance
Safety Officer

Bryan J. Christiansen
Ralph LaMendola, P.E.
Joseph Bonaccorso
Gary Restivo
Richard Cirfincione
Cathy Martinson
Steve Dowhan
Robert Sforza
Patricia Rufolo
Jack Kennedy
Terry Cole-Kelly

Plant News

Updates on some plant projects: Standard Industrial has been awarded a contract for modernizing the Screenhouse Building. Shop drawings are being reviewed by our consulting engineers and work is expected to begin during the summer of 2000. Work has also begun on the construction of the new Dechlorination Building located at the west side of the aeration tanks. In addition, plans are being developed by Joint Meeting personnel in coordination with the consulting engineers for the SCADA project.



C.M.E. has been authorized to develop plans and specifications for the conversion of main sewage pump # 5 to a diesel engine driven system. This system will act as a standby pump in the event of future power failures. This will greatly help to reduce the chances of primary effluent discharges.

The New Jersey Water Environment Association held its annual Conference at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey on May 1-5, 2000. Bryan J. Christiansen, Executive Director, was inducted into the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers, an Honor Service Group. Steve Dowhan, Project Coordinator received the Leroy Foreman Award for in-plant research involving operational processes. Ralph LaMendola, Chief Engineer, received the North Jersey Section Service Award for contributions over the years. Joseph Bonaccorso, Plant Superintendent, received the Operations Education Award in recognition for years of active involvement in the training and education of operators in New Jersey.

The Joint Meeting's Annual Blood Drive in association with the Blood Center of New Jersey was conducted on April 6, 2000. Over twenty employees made the sacrifice of donating their blood during the drive. Many thanks to these individuals whose donated blood can help to save many lives.