



**News from Public Works Board, Water Policy Board, and Municipal Wastewater Committee Meetings**

- ✚ The Public Works and Water Boards authorized Water staff to advertise for bids the painting of the Fruitport Water Tower.
- ✚ One truck bid each was approved for our downtown Public Works office, for Solid Waste, and for the Wastewater System.
- ✚ A balancing change order was approved for Laketon Township Contract #1, decreasing the final contract amount by over \$100,000.
- ✚ The Board agreed to terminate a water supply agreement between Laketon Township, Muskegon County, and North Muskegon for customers that were on Memorial Drive. These customers are now served by the Regional System.
- ✚ The Board and Wastewater Committee gave conceptual approval to the flow-through marsh proposed by the Mona Lake Watershed and MDNRE to be located on the Wastewater System.
- ✚ Bids were awarded for a small pump at Lift Station D, the quarterly calibration of wastewater billing meters, and for a wind profiler for the Wastewater System Treatment Plant.
- ✚ In the Hall of Justice renovations, the Register of Deeds will move out soon, and bids will be advertised for the asbestos abatement and remodeling.
- ✚ Efforts are being made by all supervisors to find further ways to save money on our various FY 2011 O&M budgets and to obtain any energy-related grants that are available.
- ✚ The Brown Grease report has been received and electronically distributed. Basically it recommends an anaerobic digester for the grease and for our sludge. The \$2M project would have a payback of 12 years and therefore is not being considered at this time. If a grant can be obtained that shortens that payback, it will be looked at again.
- ✚ Operations Maintenance continues to make good progress on the Rapid Infiltration Basin operations.
- ✚ Staff is putting all the new air vacuum relief valves on a preventive maintenance schedule after one leaked on the R Station line.
- ✚ The remaining water service connections in the Greenridge area of Laketon Township are out for bid.
- ✚ Our Household Hazardous Waste program is coordinating with Muskegon Area Disposal Program (Mercy General Health Partners, Lakeshore Health Network, local pharmacists, Pride Youth Programs, Sheriff, etc.), to collect and dispose of prescription drugs. Five or six such events will be held around the county with Norton Shores hosting the first one next week.
- ✚ The new Greenhouse Gas Rules will affect the operation of our landfill compressor station.
- ✚ April has been designated as County Government Month. We likely will have tours, participation by school kids, and department information available for the public.
- ✚ A County VoiceMail upgrade is scheduled for the end of the month. All existing messages and greetings will be erased.
- ✚ Our hauled waste is doing well for February. We will likely total about 1.8 MG, our second highest on record.
- ✚ CPR and AED training were given to our Volunteer Confined Space Team this period.



*Mason Samuel Armstrong*



*Public Works staff practicing CPR compressions in recent training*



*Solid Waste Account Clerk Carly Hines started work this period*



*Mark Eisenbarth, County Project Manager, poses with Northwest Kent Supervisor Mark Decat in front of some of the award-winning process piping at Lift Station C*



*Pouring concrete in the abandoned 66-inch force main on MacArthur Road*

- ✚ Three Wastewater positions that have not been filled were deleted from the FY2011 budget, and we are sharing a Sheriff's Deputy with the Sheriff's department now.
- ✚ Fewer than three miles remain to be filled with concrete in the abandoned 66-inch force main. This part of the project should be done in March.
- ✚ The boring under Apple Avenue by our Laketon Station/Outfall 002 project contractor will start by the end of the month. Installation of the pipeline from Sullivan Station to Laketon Station will begin at Sullivan Station this spring.

**PERSONNEL**

Congratulations to **Dawn DeVowe** on 20 years of service with the Wastewater System this month. **Dave** and **Carol Kendrick** are the proud grandparents of **Mason Samuel Armstrong**, who was born ten days early on January 31<sup>st</sup>, weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces, and was 21 inches long. Congratulations to **Karen Fisher**, **Susan Burmeister**, **Ellen Pallasch**, and **John Warner** for paying attention to the county emails and wearing red on County Heart Day (in recognition of heart disease as the number one killer of women) last Friday. Congratulations to **Northwest Kent Mechanical Contractors** for winning the 2009 Associated Builders & Contractor's Award of Excellence for the process piping they installed at Lift Station C (the award will be placed at C Station). There was also an article in the September issue of *Michigan Contractor and Builder* regarding the 66-inch force main replacement work by Jackson-Merkey Contractors and Kamminga & Roodvoets. **Wally Wolting** is still on light duty after knee surgery, and we wish **Tom Taylor** a speedy, continued recovery from a recent plastic surgery. Our condolences go out to the family of **Dave Bonthuis** in the passing of his brother this week. We welcome **Harold Maat** as our new Irrigation Rig Technician. Harold should start work sometime next week.