



IN THE WORKS

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Fall 2006

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Cityworks Update

New Tasks In the Works

Things are quite busy in the Information Systems division of Public Works, gathering information and conducting discoveries of the way the Department conducts daily operations. Several tasks within Phase II of the implementation of Cityworks will go or have already gone live.

The first task to be implemented was **GIS for Parks**. For the first time in our history, work orders can be attached to Parks features enabling us to track work history on shelters, buildings, playgrounds and athletic fields and courts.

We are also implementing the inclusion of **County Trades**. New service request and work order activities are being formulated and descriptions will be developed allowing the tracking of labor, material and equipment much the same as our road districts and park maintenance.

Another exciting implementation is the **Storeroom** module. This inventory management application, which went live on October 2, will run within Cityworks giving us the means to track materials with costs placed on work orders. Another benefit will be the tracking of material located at Storerooms in Districts, Parks and Trades. We will have the capability to transfer material among Storerooms to more efficiently utilize inventory. Rather than place a new purchase for material at one location, if that same material exists elsewhere and is not being used, it can be transferred to the requesting supervisor.

In order to get an accurate account of material located in Districts, Parks and Trades locations, the Purchasing\Inventory section has been conducting a physical inventory of all material.

As those tasks are being completed, another task will be started — the **Highway Occupancy Permit** (HOP) application. This new application will enable any user within Cityworks to know when an HOP is open or closed on a County right-of-way.

At this time, the **MicroPaver** application and **Video** tasks are on hold pending a new road assessment and data collection of road assets. This will allow the Roads Division to use current data and video rather than out-of-date data. We will keep you posted in future newsletters.

Please stay tuned. New functionality of Cityworks will be incorporated helping Public Works succeed in its quest to a first-class asset management application. ❖

by Marty Demblowski, project manager 2

Director's Message

Too often, public works is invisible to the public, only becoming visible when something goes wrong. Bad press may make for "more interesting" news, but it gives the public a distorted view of the public works profession.

This issue of *In the Works* provides an opportunity to recognize and publicize our workforce in a positive light. You will read about our involvement in a national event and the milestones reached in a major rehabilitation project. The "In the News" section elaborates on the role of public works in projects publicized by groundbreaking and ribbon cuttings. You will find updates on the implementation of Cityworks and the APWA assessment of our management practices, projects that are essential to our future successes.

A lot goes on behind the scenes in our profession. The list of contributions our employees make to improve our community is almost endless. I am pleased to be able to share the outstanding accomplishments of our public works personnel with our readers. This is proof that we live up to our mission to "enhance the quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and improve mobility for the citizens of Allegheny County." Our employees are the invisible force behind the accomplishment of our mission.

*Thomas E. Donatelli, P.E.
Director of Public Works*

2006 MLB All-Star Game

Banner Event for the County

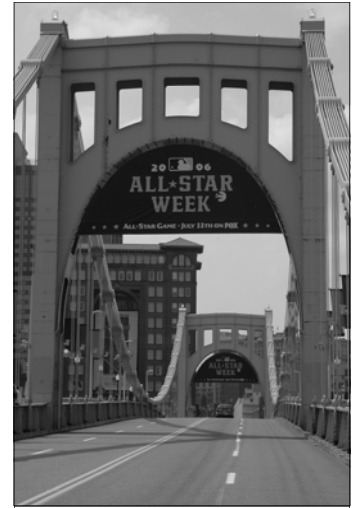
Once again public works crews were busy preparing for yet another showcase event, the 2006 Major League Baseball All-Star Week, July 7-11, 2006. The game was played at PNC Park, the "best new ballpark in the Major Leagues" according to *Sports Illustrated*, *USA Today* and *ESPN.com*. Extraordinary banners decorated the Roberto Clemente Bridge leading to PNC Park and Allegheny County Public Works made a major league contribution to the awesome display.

As is typical of any significant public event, Public Works employees were first on the scene. Using a bucket truck to reach the arch of the bridge, **Bill Berberich**, sign crafter, and **Bruce Trapolsi**, laborer foreman, measured the radius of the arch so that a full-sized banner pattern could be produced. Using those measurements, **Becky Hovanec**, sign crafter, used computer software to reproduce the artwork and graphics. A second pattern was transferred onto 15' x 33' banners, which were then hand painted.

On June 26, 2006, with the banners ready for installation, the bridge was closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic with the help of **District No. 7 laborers**. **Traffic Division laborers** and **iron workers** teamed together using three bucket trucks, each taking their turn placing beam clamps with ratchet straps to secure each banner.

The accomplishments and service of our public works employees place them in a league of their own. Their efforts made it possible for millions of people to witness an impressive red-carpet entrance to a spectacular event. ❖ CT

story contributed by Joe Hursen, traffic supervisor and Jack Grant, ironworker supervisor



Arched banners crafted and installed by County employees decorate the Roberto Clemente Bridge.



Sign Crafters hand painting the banner

PW All Stars contributing to the banner project:

Sign Crafters

Ken Condello, foreman
Bill Berberich
Becky Hovanec
Lou Mottmann
Steve Smith

Traffic Division Laborers

Bruce Trapolsi, foreman and bucket man
Arthur Bork, bucket man
Larry Camerota, bucket man
Pete Castellano, bucket truck driver
Midi Paterra
Tony Russo, bucket truck driver
Dave Stankovic
Jim Stelitano
Craig Zinsser, bucket man

District No. 1 Driver

George Kavchak, bucket truck driver

Iron Workers

Jack Grant, supervisor
Gary Cooper
Greg Eberhart
Ron Mang
Tom Woessner

District No. 7 Laborers

Gil Fraizer
Bill Ramsey
Bill Reed
Frank Tripson

Public Works Response to “Nuclear Meltdown”

Evoxis Communications System

Evoxis, Incorporated’s Prodigent for Emergency Management is a communications system that provides detailed information to a variety of first responders and other emergency personnel through multiple communications media.

“In the event of an emergency, Prodigent for Emergency Management will be one of our first lines of defense,” says Chief **Bob Full**, emergency management coordinator and member of the Region 13 All Hazards and Counter Terrorism Task Force. “It will intelligently mobilize emergency responders to execute civilian rescue missions, coordinate evacuation and keep first responders apprised of events in near real-time. In a large-scale emergency, minutes count, and when first responders have immediate access to accurate and relevant information, it saves lives.”

The system is deployed in the Emergency Operations Center to speed up and enhance the quality of communications to and automatic deployment of vital personnel during an emergency resulting from terrorism or disaster, either natural or man-made. It is used by Region 13 to coordinate regional activities of first responders including police, fire, paramedics, and public works personnel.

GIS Mapping

Geographical Information System (GIS) technology is an integral part of emergency operations. The Departments of Emergency Services and Public Works coordinate with the GIS Division of Computer Services to create the data layers necessary to view and analyze information graphically and spatially on a map. By combining the spatial data of the two departments, a GIS map can be viewed to analyze and evaluate the emergency situation. Public Works maintains GIS data in Cityworks. Future implementations to Cityworks will enhance the ability to deploy public works resources during an emergency.

It was around 5:15 p.m on Tuesday, June 27, when my cell phone rang. A recorded message from the Evoxis Notification System requested verification that I was the authorized “Emergency Responder.” After confirming with an assigned password, I received specific instructions on how to respond to a meltdown at the Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Station (BVPS) in Beaver County. I was requested to immediately report to the County Emergency Operation Center in Point Breeze and I gave my estimated time of arrival (ETA). The game was afoot, and my adrenaline was flowing. I felt privileged that Director Donatelli asked me to staff the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in his place.



Photo courtesy Beaver Valley Nuclear Power Plant

I entered the EOC around 6:15 p.m. and found my seat at Emergency Support Function #3 (ESF #3), the Public Works and Engineering Annex of the National Response Plan. Immediately I was required to log in and e-mail the communications center to indicate my arrival. I would use e-mail to report to the communications center as to how Public Works was responding to the emergency as it was unfolding. My responses, along with those of others, were logged onto a giant screen at the front of the EOC for everyone to see.

My role throughout the event was to identify and deploy Public Works personnel and resources to support Beaver County’s needs. The meltdown at the BVPS reached the general emergency level requiring an immediate evacuation of Beaver County residents to a registration area set up in South Park.

I coordinated with the County Police to assist them in directing the evacuation from Beaver County to South Park. Public Works personnel from Districts 2, 5 and 8 were mobilized to strategically place traffic control devices along the emergency route and remove debris or other obstructions from the roadway that might hinder the progress of the evacuation.

Representatives from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) observed the event from the EOC and were pleased by the outcome. They were especially impressed by the County’s communications system and GIS mapping. The technology enabled them to monitor the location and activity of each ESF function at all times.

With the evacuation completed, my mission was over, and it was satisfying to know that we could pull off such an event – if it were to ever happen. The entire exercise was a simulation. Only those responders reporting to the EOC were real. The exercise was to evaluate the County’s response to an emergency event. We passed the test with flying colors! ❖

*by **Phil LaMay**, deputy director of administration & operations*

*Chief **Bob Full**, Allegheny County emergency management coordinator and member of the Region 13 All Hazards and Counter Terrorism Task Force, conducts simulated exercises, such as this mock nuclear meltdown, to evaluate and maintain the readiness posture of County agencies. The exercises are used to train public officials, County emergency staff and emergency responders including, public works personnel whose duties require them to be emergency responders and/or disaster workers.*

In the News

Leetsdale Overpass Groundbreaking - On March 30, 2006, Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** joined Governor **Ed Rendell** and Leetsdale Borough officials to break ground on a new overpass and access road at an at-grade crossing entering two major developments at Ferry Street and Avenue A off



Leetsdale Overpass Groundbreaking

Route 65. Public Works Director **Tom Donatelli** and Bridge Operations Manager **Tom Vena** were also in attendance.

Allegheny County Public Works assisted the Borough of Leetsdale in the design of the overpass and access road in order to meet the stringent federal and state requirements. The new overpass will provide improved site access, relieve congestion and eliminate safety issues associated with a railroad crossing. ♦

Voter Outreach Effort Launched - On April 19, 2006, County Chief Executive Dan Onorato launched a comprehensive effort to educate poll workers and voters about Allegheny County's new voting system. County employees from all departments were trained to conduct demonstration sessions in more than 100 locations, including senior centers, community centers, libraries, malls, hotels and centers serving the disability community. In addition, County employees provided roving support at polling locations on May 16, primary election day. Public Works employees contributing to this effort were **Lester Burkholder, Chuck Dato, Don Meerdo, Robin Parrilla, Gene Pieszak, Mike Porter, Carla Severino** and **Cathy Trexler**. ♦

Ninth Street Bridge Renamed – The Ninth Street Bridge over the Allegheny River was renamed to the Rachel Carson Bridge on Saturday, April 22, 2006. It was a very fitting tribute to the famed environmentalist that the official ribbon cutting and dedication took place on Earth Day. The dedication ceremony included honored guests Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato**; Council President **Richard Fitzgerald**, Councilmembers **Brenda Frazier, David Fawcett, Joan Cleary, John DeFazio, Vince Gastgeb, C.L. Jabbour, William Russell Robinson**, former Councilmember **Eileen Watt** and Public Works Director **Tom Donatelli**. Additional guests included Esther L. Barazzone, Ph.D., President of Chatham College, Rachel Carson's alma mater when it was known as Pennsylvania College for Women; and Patricia DeMarco, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association; Rachel Carson biographer Linda Lear; and Pittsburgh Mayor Bob O'Connor. The Allegheny County Public Works Traffic

Division **Sign Shop** designed the banners adorning the bridge. ♦

Flag Retirement Plaza - Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** broke ground for Allegheny County's first flag retirement plaza on April 28, 2006. Onorato was joined by Congressman **Tim Murphy**, State Senator **John Pippy**, Allegheny County Council members **Joan Cleary, Matt Drozd, Mike Finnerty, Vince Gastgeb**, Public Works Director **Tom Donatelli**, Principal Architect **Sam Taylor**, a representative from CDM, as well as several local veterans.

The flag retirement plaza provides the general public with a method of properly discarding worn flags. Designed with the help of John Kovach, Jr., a former Marine and sergeant first class in the Pennsylvania National Guard, the hexagonal plaza is surrounded by seven flag poles - one for each branch of the military and one for the American flag - with a burn pit in the center. A deposit box on the site allows visitors to leave soiled, damaged and tattered flags to be incinerated during future ceremonies. The facility, located behind the Children's Theatre in South Park, was constructed by **Dave Faust**, tuckpointer supervisor; **Bill Caven** and **Jim Scalise**, tuckpointers; and **Tommy Geubtner**, bricklayer.

A ribbon cutting and dedication for the new flag retirement plaza took place on Flag Day, June 14, 2006. Veterans, their families and the general public were in attendance. ♦

Oliver Miller Homestead Barn Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony - On April 28, 2006, Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** and other County officials cut the ribbon on the recently reconstructed Oliver Miller Homestead barn in South Park. The original barn was destroyed many years ago by a devastating fire. Allegheny County secured \$500,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development for the facility's reconstruction.



OMH Barn Ribbon Cutting

The Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation and the Oliver Miller Homestead Associates (OMHA) partnered with the County to ensure the homestead and farm maintained their 19th Century authenticity and charm. The barn houses a meeting room on the lower level that features period furniture.

Amish Timber Framers of Doylestown, Ohio, cut and milled the white oak trees that were used for the structure, and they also erected the frame. No metal fasteners were used in the barn's construction, but

rather old style mortise and tenon connectors make the necessary structural links. Contractor Lee Brunner, completed the construction of the barn. **Sam Taylor**, principal architect, served as project manager. ♦

Great Hall Reopened at Hartwood - Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** cut a ribbon to re-open the newly restored Great Hall at the Hartwood Mansion in Indiana Township on May 3, 2006. Last August, the Great Hall's plaster ceiling collapsed, severely damaging antique furnishings and other artifacts.

The total cost to restore and repair the Great Hall's ceiling, furniture, flooring, carpets and other furnishings was \$257,000. McClelland Plastering Company of Apollo, Pa., which specializes in historic and decorative plastering, was hired to restore the ornate ceiling. Work on the ceiling accounted for \$184,000 of the total cost. The Chief Executive was joined at the event by many of the craftspeople who worked on the restoration. Also attending were County Public Works Director **Tom Donatelli**, Hartwood Mansion Manager **Sylvia Easler**, "Friends of Hartwood" members, and the Mansion's public docents.

An open house was held on Saturday, May 6. ♦

Wendell Schallenberger Featured in Trib Article – The May 8, 2006 issue of the *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* features the craftsmanship of **Wendall Schallenberger**, carpenter in an article entitled, "A High-Maintenance County Relationship."

The article discusses the **County Trades**, mentioning the plumbers and sign painters and the work of the electricians and stationary engineers. The article can be found online at www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/search/s_451541.html. ♦



Wendall Schallenberger
Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

New County Lab Construction Update - On May 23, 2006, Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** provided an update on construction of the County's new laboratories. Structural repairs are underway at a 78,000 square-foot building in the Strip District to serve as the new headquarters for the Allegheny County Medical Examiner. The Buncher Company facility, known as Penn-Liberty Plaza II, will house the Medical Examiner's crime lab, which provides forensic, analytical and medical testing services to law enforcement agencies throughout the County, as well as the County morgue.

After numerous meetings with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Allegheny County Health Department, a decision was made to move forward with building the new public health lab, which includes a

Biosafety Level 3 facility, at a separate 10,000 square-foot building in Lawrenceville, at the Clack Center Complex, due to time and cost issues. The County Public Works Department has issued re-bid requests for construction of the facility. Principal Architect **Sam Taylor**, project manager, has construction documents to be completed in mid-November. The new lab will replace the Health Department's current facility located at 3441 Forbes Avenue in Oakland. ♦

National Public Works Week – Across the nation, public works employees were recognized for their contribution to our communities during the week of May 21-27, 2006 with proclamations signed nationally by the **U.S. Congress**, statewide by Governor **Ed Rendell**, and locally by Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** and Pittsburgh Mayor **Bob O'Connor**.

Furthermore, a proclamation was presented to Public Works Deputy Directors **Phil LaMay** and **Joe Olczak** by County Council At-Large **John DeFazio**. ♦



NPWW Proclamation

Seminars Conducted by County Employees - On June 8, 2006, County employees conducted seminars at the 27th Annual Vendor Show and Seminar sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Chapter of APWA and the Local Government Academy. The event was held at the North Park Skating Rink.

Cathy Trexler, management analyst, introduced the APWA self-assessment process to elected officials and public works professionals from throughout the region. Following her presentation, **Alvin Henderson**, emergency management specialist, conducted National Incident Management System (NIMS) training enabling public works personnel to meet the 2006 federal requirements. All personnel with a direct role in emergency preparedness, incident management or response are required to complete this training. Seminar participants included representatives from 24 boroughs and townships from the Counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Washington as well as PennDOT.

In addition to the seminars, vendors had plenty of room to demonstrate their products on the first floor of the indoor facility or to exhibit their equipment in the parking lot.

Thanks to **Gil Coda**, North Park maintenance supervisor, and his **crew** for assisting in the preparation of this event. Their help contributed to the success of the show. ♦

See HIGHLIGHTS continued on page 9

Project UPDATE

Light at the End of the Tunnel

We are beginning to see light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. As you know, the Department of Public Works has been pursuing American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation over the past few years.

We have been comparing our practices and procedures against APWA's *Public Works Management Practices Manual* containing over 500 practices developed by public works leaders throughout the United States and Canada. Once accredited, we will be recognized as one of the foremost public works agencies in North America.

The Steering Committee for the American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation Project approved practices relating to emergency management, human resources, and growth management and re-development at their quarterly meetings held on June 14 and September 20. Members of the Allegheny County Departments of Economic Development, Emergency Management and Human Resources assisted in the preparation and documentation of the practices.

Thanks to the efforts of our employees, as well as representatives from other County departments and outside agencies affected by our practices, the self-assessment phase of the project has enabled us to focus on our strengths and identify our weaknesses. We've updated our practices to ensure the latest standards and regulations are

being met. We've made improvements to provide services in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

As you are aware, this project is a tremendous undertaking. It has been and still is a team effort. We couldn't have made it this far without collaboration. As we approach year-end, we may be asking you to assist in meeting our stringent deadlines. When called upon,

we have come to expect and appreciate your full cooperation.

Self-assessment of our practices is critical to improving the quality of life for present and future generations. Thank you for your ongoing support as we strive to provide the most responsive and cost-effective services to our citizens. The quality of life in Allegheny County will be much brighter when we reach the end of the tunnel. ❖ CT

Commitment to Excellence:

County's PW Woman of the Year Recognized by APWA

On September 27, 2006, **Cathy Trexler**, management analyst, was awarded second place at the American Public Works Association's (APWA's) Pennsylvania Statewide Symposium as Pennsylvania's Public Works Woman of the Year.

As a result of her efforts to achieve APWA accreditation, and at the request of APWA's Accreditation Council, Cathy attended training to become part of APWA's accreditation team for the purpose of conducting onsite evaluations of public works agencies across the United States and Canada. Furthermore, she attended the Emerging Leaders Program at the 2006 APWA Congress enabling her to share ideas and processes with other agencies across the continent. In addition, she was named to the Board of Directors of APWA's Western Pennsylvania Chapter where she promotes educational opportunities for public works agencies and raises the public's awareness of the role of public works in Western Pennsylvania.

Cathy serves as accreditation manager and communications manager for the Department. She researches and analyzes our public works management practices for compliance with APWA's recommended practices and federal, state and local regulations. In addition, she writes, edits and publishes technical and operations manuals, the *In the Works* newsletter, manages content on our web pages, and oversees the production of our annual report.

Thanks to Cathy's commitment to excellence, the Allegheny County Department of Public Works is making its mark in the industry. Keep up the good work, Cathy! ❖

by Phil LaMay, deputy director administration & operations

Woman in Public Works Award—Cathy Trexler (right) accepts an award for second place as the 2006 Woman in Public Works at the APWA Pennsylvania Statewide Symposium presented by Julia Anastasio, APWA Senior Manager of Government Affairs and Jim Smith, P.E., Senior Vice President of Bucharth Horn, Inc.



A Minute for Safety

Poison Ivy – Never Out of the Woods

A major work-related ailment reported by public works employees this year has been poison ivy. Workers can come into contact with this plant that climbs trees or creeps at the edge of any road, field or forest. Thanks to global warming causing carbon

dioxide levels in the atmosphere to rise, the noxious vine grows faster and bigger than ever. It has also become more potent since it produces more urushiol, the rash-causing oil in the plant.

Although the appearance of poison ivy changes seasonally, don't be fooled. Even if the plants appear dormant, they usually contain the same amount of urushiol year-round. And don't assume since you've never had poison ivy that

you are immune to it. People change as they age, and can lose or gain immunity at any time.

The rash often shows up in lines or streaks and is marked by fluid-filled blisters or hives. Although it is normally caused by coming into contact with the leaves, you can also get the rash by touching clothing, pet fur, tools, or any other object that has come into contact with the plant. Pulling the vine out by the roots – even in winter – can result in an unpleasant rash. You can also get poison ivy from breathing in the smoke from burning the vines or wood with ivy vines on it.

Grounds maintenance workers are especially at risk since using a weed eater can spray legs, arms and eyes with poison ivy. Dress properly. Wear long sleeves, long pants, safety goggles and vinyl gloves (urushiol can penetrate rubber). Getting cut or scratched on exposed areas while covered with urushiol may result in a trip to the emergency room.

If you suspect you have been exposed to poison ivy, rinse the area immediately (within 10 to 15 minutes) with cold water to help prevent a reaction. Avoid hot water as it can open pores letting the oil in. Most people have up to 4 hours to wash the oil off before a reaction occurs. Thoroughly wash clothing and clean contaminated surfaces with rubbing alcohol.

Mild cases of poison ivy can be treated at home, though most home treatments usually only relieve symptoms. In severe cases, call your doctor who may prescribe medication to expedite or improve the healing process.



Learning to identify poison ivy is the best defense to remaining itch-free. Although poison ivy leaves come in many shapes and sizes, one simple phrase is still the best way to identify the plant – “Leaves of three, let it be!” ❖*CT*

Interning at the Public Works

Throughout my internship at the Department of Public Works, I was consistently asked one question: “What is a mechanical engineering student doing in the Bridge Section?” The confusion surrounding my position was understandable and I must admit that I even asked myself the same question. However, now that summer is over, I realize that there is a fairly simple explanation for my presence here. I was working for bridge engineers and in the process learning those things about all types of engineering that they do not teach in school.

At George Washington University, my professors try to cram in as many topics as humanly possible during one semester, so I am pummeled with technical information and the assignments that go with it. For group design projects, some coordination was obviously needed, but that usually consisted of a quick yell across my dorm room to see which tasks my roommate/group member was going to do. Working with the Bridge Section, I learned how much work is really required to complete a major engineering project. I saw first hand how many people are involved, the amount of hours that have to be allotted, and the amount of communication necessary to be successful. I drastically underestimated all these things and was amazed at the amount of work involved. Learning about the amount of management and coordination required to complete large projects will be useful across the engineering world. Even though I am a mechanical engineering student in a civil world, the knowledge gained here will surely prove its value no matter what field I enter.

This internship was also rewarding considering I live in the City of Bridges. I cannot come to work without crossing or going by almost twenty bridges of various sizes. It was fascinating to learn something about the bridges and then see its application driving home that afternoon. Plus, getting out of the office to inspect bridges or go to the International Bridge Conference definitely made up for those moldy work orders I got to sort through.

So even though I may not want to see another bridge inspection report for some time, my internship with the DPW was not only a useful and educational experience, but a fun and interesting one, too. Many thanks to **Tom Vena, Steve Shanley, Ron Walker, Bill Connery**, of the Engineering Division and all the other employees who were always friendly and willing to help. ❖

by **Keith Sandroni**, bridge engineering section intern



Keith Sandroni, intern

Homestead Grays Bridge Rehab Project Reaches First Milestone



The first milestone of the Homestead Grays Bridge rehabilitation project was reached when the east ramp that connects the bridge to the Waterfront reopened on June 30, 2006. The ramp was rebuilt and the contractor Value Engineered the retaining wall along the north side of the ramp saving the County about \$100,000.



The Homestead Grays Bridge is a 17-span, 3,100-foot deck truss consisting of four continuous Wichert trusses spanning the Monongahela River between Homestead and Greenfield. The bridge was first opened in 1937 as the Homestead High Level Bridge and has undergone several rehabilitations since then. The latest \$35.2 million rehabilitation contract began in November 2005. It was awarded to Balfour Beatty Construction Inc. with Dick Corporation selected as the construction manager for the project.



The scope of the project includes the removal and replacement of the sidewalks that flank each side of the bridge. By reducing the original width of each sidewalk, the vehicular traffic lanes can be widened to allow for the smoother flow of the many trucks and automobiles that cross the bridge each day.



The first five spans of the bridge will be completely redecked and receive extensive steel beam replacement. From spans five through seventeen, most of the original grid deck will remain. The grid deck areas

that will be disturbed are the ones adjacent to the sidewalk and in the areas adjacent to the expansion dams since all existing expansion dams will be replaced.

The west ramp, replaced in an earlier contract, will have the structural steel repainted to match the color of the main bridge. This leads to what will be the costliest part of the project-- the removal of the existing lead-based paint from the steel and the repainting with a new three-coat paint system. The bridge will be gray in honor of its namesakes, the Homestead Grays.

Other work items associated with the project is the replacement of nearly all the existing bearings, the installation of new "Pennsylvania barriers" (barriers with openings) to preserve the view of the river and skyline, and various steel repairs to correct the corrosion of the steel superstructure that has occurred within the last 70 years. In order to retain some of the historic value of the bridge, the existing pedestrian railing will be temporarily removed from service, the existing paint blasted off, necessary repairs performed, and a new three-coat paint system applied. The railing will then be reinstalled for service.

Currently Balfour Beatty is doing steel repairs and road widening on the upstream side of the bridge closer to Pittsburgh. Repairs are also happening in the middle lanes on the Homestead side.

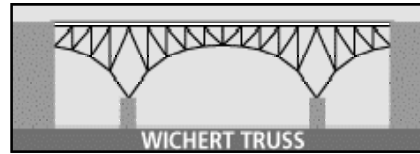
Homestead Grays Bridge under construction

This project contains many challenges not normally found on bridge reconstruction projects. Since the bridge spans directly over the Waterfront complex of retail stores and restaurants, special attention must be given in order to minimize the adverse effects that the construction could have on the various businesses. Two-way communications with all parties is vital for success. The bridge also spans across the railroad tracks of Norfolk Southern and CSX.

Coordination with these railways must be kept at a high level and respect given to the railroad rights-of-way. Furthermore, since the bridge spans across the Monongahela River, the Coast Guard must be aware of all work that could possibly affect river traffic. The boroughs of Homestead, West Homestead, and Munhall are stakeholders in the reconstruction work and must be kept informed when restricting traffic or changing traffic phasing. Collaboration with the Police Departments of these three boroughs is a must in order to gain their assistance in controlling the heavy volume of traffic at the various intersections affected by the construction. Furthermore,

since the project is federally funded, many decisions must have PennDOT's concurrence. Despite these diverse challenges, as it stands now, the project is on schedule to meet the next contractual milestone -- the completion of all four travel lanes of the bridge by May 4,

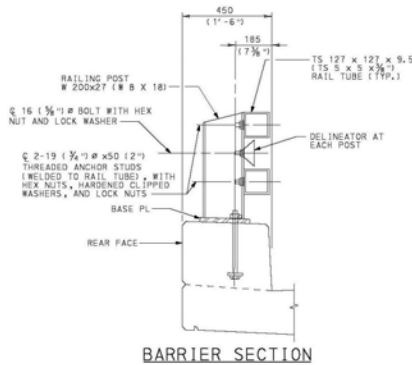
The Wichert Truss



Before the use of computers, the interaction of forces on spans which crossed multiple supports was difficult to calculate. One solution to the problem was developed by E. M. Wichert of Pittsburgh, PA, in 1930. By introducing an open, hinged quadrilateral over the intermediate piers, each span could be calculated independently. The first **Wichert truss** was the Homestead High Level Bridge over the Monongahela River in 1937, today known as the Homestead Grays Bridge.

Courtesy of pghbridges.com

The Pennsylvania Barrier



The **Pennsylvania Barrier** came to fruition through a collaboration of engineers, architects, bureaucrats, and civic boosters in order to preserve the view of Pittsburgh's skyline and rivers from the Fort Pitt Bridge and Tunnels, a major gateway into the City of Pittsburgh. Developed as an alternative to the Jersey Barrier, a 42-inch wall of solid concrete, the Pennsylvania Barrier consists of a 24-inch concrete base with 26 inches of double rail tubes allowing for two separate 9-inch "windows" between the rails.

2007. Painting work will continue after this milestone, restricting traffic in only one lane in each direction. All work, including the painting, is on schedule to be completed by November 24, 2007.

by Fran Diegelman, Dick Corp. and Doug Aiken, project manager 2

HIGHLIGHTS continued from page 5

Watts Memorial Overlook Dedicated in Harrison Hills Park – A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on October 2, 2006 for the recently expanded Watts Memorial Overlook in Harrison Hills Park. The overlook provides a picturesque and expansive view of the Allegheny River and Allegheny Valley. Visitors to the vantage point can see Allegheny, Armstrong and Westmoreland counties.



Watts Memorial Overlook Expansion

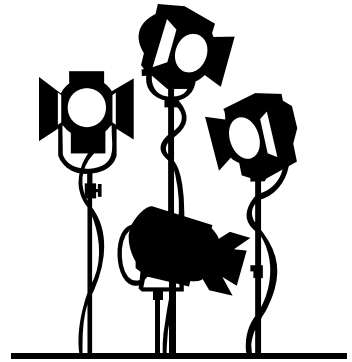
The Department of Public Works assisted with the project: The **Bridge Section**

of the Engineering Division assisted in reviewing the plans, the **Maintenance Division** contracted with vendors to have trees removed and the deck constructed, the **Paving Crew** repaved the road leading to the outlook with a recycled asphalt material, the **Carpenter Shop** and **Sign Shop** prepared new entrance signs, and **Traffic Division Laborers** painted line striping and installed the signs.

Chief Executive **Dan Onorato** was joined by representatives of Friends of Harrison Hills Park, Senate Engineering, who designed the overlook, and the Allegheny County Departments of **Public Works** and **Parks** for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. ♦

Some highlights adapted from County news releases. Photos courtesy of Margaret Stanley, county photographer unless otherwise noted.

In the Spotlight



Name: Mike Pantone

Job Title, Location: Acting Foreman/1058 Laborer, District 3

Primary Job Function: Road Maintenance, Crew Leader

Favorite Part of My Job: Sense of accomplishment when completing a job, working outdoors, interesting people I have met over the years

Years of Service: 23 years

Family: Daughter Maura, son Daniel, grandson Tyler

Hobbies/Interests: History, sports, relaxing with family and friends

Pet Peeve: Laziness, cars speeding through workzones, poison ivy

My Best Character Trait: Consistency in the quality of my work, rebounding

My Most Unusual Experience: The honor of having baseball's "Great One," Roberto Clemente, palm my bald head!



Word Search

The following words appear in the articles of this issue of *In the Works*. You can also find the words hidden in this puzzle. They can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal and frontward or backward. Good luck!

BANNER
GIS MAPPING
GROUNDBREAKING
INTERM
PANTONE

POISON IVY
PRACTICES
RIBBON CUTTING
STOREROOM
WICHERT TRUSS

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X U P U W P X D Y O G K J J E
C K R Z X M P Q R H N M F D N
F Z A G Q C J E C J I J J C O
N N C B Q I N A C G T M S V T
H D T T Q N I U W G T S T A N
G N I K A E R B D N U O R G A
U Y C B J C Y P P R C P H W P
L J E M G Q Y O T F N X U N R
F T S J N V I T P V O G N E H
H H O L F S R T W T B C W H G
J U P Q O E R W N J B B H T I
M O X N H N K J U D I Z V F S
Y V I C O M O O R E R O T S U
J V I G I S M A P P I N G Q B
Y W Q D W I N T E R N A C A O
    
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On the Move



New Hire/Rehire:

Blankenship, Damon, Laborer, Maintenance
Casey, Chris T., Stationary Engineer, Trades
Cunningham, Wayne C., Laborer, Maintenance
Juliano, Samuel, Laborer, Maintenance
Kehl, Matthew A., Laborer, Maintenance
Laird, Chris L., Stationary Engineer, Trades
Machi, Christopher, Laborer, Maintenance
Price, Jesse, Laborer, Maintenance
Sabo, Robert J., Temporary Tuckpointer, Trades
Walkowiak, Richard P., Driver, Maintenance
Walsh, James P., Jr., Laborer, Maintenance

Promotions/Transfers/Title Changes

Dutch, Michael J., Laborer to Regional Maintenance Coordinator, Maintenance
Gilfoyle, Michael A., Laborer to Driver, Maintenance
Kahler, Thomas W., Laborer to Driver, Maintenance
Millner, Michael, Fiscal Analyst to Sr. Fiscal Analyst, Administration
Newman, Joseph M., Laborer to Driver, Maintenance
Lane, Carlrose M., Administrative Assistant, Engineering to Aging
Stawecki, Jim, Laborer to Driver, Maintenance

Retirements:

Czlapinski, Robert, Laborer, Maintenance
Dennis, Joe, Laborer, Maintenance
Donofrio, Richard, Laborer, Maintenance
McQuillis, John, Laborer, Maintenance
Thompson, Harry M., Regional Maintenance Coordinator, Maintenance

Resignations:

Trozzo, Kevin, Stationary Engineer, Trades
Berwick, Kevin, Stationary Engineer, Trades
Elkins, Tim, Plumber, Trades

Service Milestones: *

35 Years

Cooke, William J., Lead Engineer, Maintenance
Davis, Dana F., Driver, Maintenance
Mussill, Raymond, Permits Inspector, Engineering
Russo, Anthony, Jr., Driver, Maintenance
Volkman, William G., Greenskeeper, Maintenance

30 Years

Bruno, Anthony Phillip, Laborer, Maintenance

25 Years

Bock, Lawrence A., Laborer, Maintenance
Scherer, Thomas H., Laborer, Maintenance

20 Years

Bork, Arthur C., Laborer, Maintenance
Brown, James R., Laborer, Trades
Burkett, Paul A., Laborer, Maintenance
Meehan, Janice M., Laborer, Maintenance
Nagy, John A., Laborer, Maintenance
Smith, Blaise D., Laborer, Maintenance

15 Years

Caven, Wilmer B., Tuckpointer, Trades
Leukhardt, Susan, Payroll Specialist, Administration
Marasco, Domenic, Sr., Inventory Supervisor, Administration
Taylor, Samuel Adam, Principal Architect/Manager of Buildings, Engineering

10 Years

Argyle, Floyd A., Electrician, Trades
Chiorazzo, Phil R., Regional Park Maintenance Supervisor, Maintenance
Coyner, Louis P., Regional Maintenance Supervisor, Maintenance
Deedler, Earl W., Stationary Engineer, Maintenance
Diulus, Vincent A., Carpenter, Trades
Farrell, Gary R., Equipment Operator C1A., Maintenance
Gerstberger, Robert R., Laborer, Maintenance
Hakim, Gary A., Equipment Operator C1A., Maintenance
Hursen, Joseph P., Traffic Supervisor, Maintenance
Jones, William K., Driver, Maintenance
Maglicco, Frank, Laborer, Maintenance
Marak, Ronald, Laborer, Maintenance
Miller, John R., Equipment Operator C1A., Maintenance
Mottmann Jr., Louis H., Sign Craftsman, Maintenance
Pope, Ronald M., Stationary Engineer, Trades
Sansotta, Nick A., Jr., Driver, Maintenance
Schallenberger, Wendell F., Carpenter, Trades
Schofield, Timothy R., Carpenter, Trades
Schwab, John W., Driver, Maintenance
Stysliger, William F., Laborer, Maintenance
Sullivan, William R., Electrician, Trades
Vtipil, David D., Carpenter, Trades
Wokutch, William H., Driver, Maintenance

5 Years

Cipriani, Louis R., Plumber, Trades
Eberhart, Gregory G., Structural Iron Worker, Trades
Holmes, Stephen A., Cement Finisher, Maintenance
Mang, Ronald P., Structural Iron Worker, Maintenance
Mazzarini, Paul J., Stationary engineer, Trades
Shanley, Stephen G., Assistant Manager Bridge Engineering, Engineering
Smith, Steve F., Sign Craftsman, Maintenance
Sprys, Michael V., Laborer, Maintenance
Tomasits, Darren G., Equipment Operator C1A., Maintenance
Trozzo, Brian J., Stationary Engineer, Maintenance
Yount, Paul A., Laborer, Maintenance

**Based on DCS payroll data information.*



From the Mailbag

Dear **Tom [Donatelli]**:

I would like to take this opportunity to

thank you, **Joe Olczak, Gil Coda** [North Park], and his **crew** for contributing to the success of the 27th Annual Vendor Show and Seminar held at the North Park Skating Rink on June 8, 2006. As always, the service was prompt in providing us with all the items necessary for the event preparation and clean up.

Thanks again,

*Earl Fitzgerald, President
Western Pennsylvania Chapter
American Public Works
Association*



Dear Mr. **[Tom] Donatelli**:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank your office for replacing the Orange Belt sign on

Route 19 as requested by the Township of Upper St. Clair's Public Works Department, which was addressed in my letter to **Steve Small Hoover** [assistant road manager] on July 21, 2006.

Steve was very helpful concerning this request and continues to work closely with the Township's Public Works Department on all County and Township issues.

Thanks again to you and Steve on this issue.

Sincerely,

*F. Kyle Robinson
Director of Public Works
Township of Upper St. Clair*



Dear Mr. **[Bill] Schrott**:

I wanted to express my gratitude for the service your department **[District 1]** has provided to our township residents. We made a

request to have the brush trimmed along Wible Run Road in Shaler Township. We realized that you had a backlog of work to attend to during the summer months.

The **crew** that arrived to tend to this problem really made a difference. Although the temperature was extreme, the workers did an exemplary job. The roadway, berm, shoulders and the guide rails never have been as clear as they are now. Your employees should be commended for their excellence in work ethic. Please express our gratitude for the diligent manner in which they performed their assignment.

Thank you again for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

*Richard J. Fowler, Jr.
Patrolman
Township of Shaler Police
Department*

In the Works is published for the employees of the Allegheny County Department of Public Works. News items and story ideas are welcome. Please send all correspondence to In the Works, c/o Public Works Department at the return address above. Editor, Layout and Design: Cathy Trexler, management analysts, 412-350-2501, ctrexler@county.allegheeny.pa.us

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DAN ONORATO
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

County of Allegheny

