



# IN THE WORKS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Winter 2005

## Flood of '04: Ivan Inundates Allegheny County

*As Hurricane Ivan worked its way north, it weakened to a tropical depression, but its effects were no less devastating. Allegheny County was hit with some of the worst flooding on record. While an average rainfall produces ¼ inch of rain, Ivan inundated the County with almost six inches of rain — even more in some areas. Widespread flooding and damage resulted in over eighty municipalities in the County.*

*In the midst of it all, public works employees were involved — as emergency responders, as heroes and as victims. We captured some of the stories, as well as other stories of heroism, on the pages of this issue.*

## Moving to Higher Ground

Friday, September 17, 2004 is a day many of us will not soon forget, especially **Sonny Chiorazzo**, Boyce Park maintenance supervisor. On that day, he lost his home on

Cherry Street in the lowest lying area of Etna.

Public works crews were mobilized for emergency operations under the direction of **Tom Donatelli**, director and **Joe Olczak**, deputy director of maintenance, in collaboration with the Department of Emergency Services. Sonny was called into service as Etna residents were advised to evacuate their homes.

Sonny drove his County truck out of the area in the nick of time. The water had spilled out over the dam on Pine Creek behind the Blarney Stone Restaurant on Grant Avenue, and a gush of water traveled down Butler Street towards Sharpsburg. In a matter of minutes, the area where the truck was parked was covered under five feet of water.

Emergency workers and volunteers used fishing boats, canoes and jet skis along Cherry and Sycamore Streets looking for residents who were stranded by the flood. Some waited on their rooftops for someone to help them.

### Also in this issue:

Director's Message	2
Heroes Assist Crash Victims at Round Hill	2
Carnegie Residents Grateful for PW Hero	3
Budgets Take a Blow from Ivan	4
APWA Project Update	5
A Minute for Safety 2004—An Excellent Year For Safety	5
GIS Staff Recognizes Importance, Benefits of Technology	6
Winter Operations Manual Gets an Overhaul	6
ASHE Award	6
In the Work Zone Engineering Division: 2004 Accomplishments and 2005 Initiatives	7
Traditional Amish Barn Raising at Oliver Miller Homestead in South Park	8
Flood Aid Concert	9
In the Spotlight	10
On the Move	11
From the Mailbag	12



Firefighters in rescue boats search for stranded residents along Cherry and Sycamore Streets in Etna.  
Photo courtesy of Rick Hilinski, Fire Chief for Sharps Hill VFD

When the floodwaters receded, Sonny got a call from Joe Olczak to dispatch two dumps from Boyce Park to Etna. **Karl Eberhardt** and **Bobby James**, drivers, were

HIGHER GROUND continued on page 4

## Director's Message

I firmly believe that man is at his very best when he uses his abilities to help people in need. All of us employed as public servants use our resources and skills to resolve problems and make improvements that enhance the quality of peoples' lives. We are at our very best when we serve other people.

Over the most recent months, and specifically on September 17, our Department – you! – were at your very best as you responded to the devastation of Hurricane Ivan. We fulfilled the very spirit of our Department's mission during this time.

This issue of *In the Works* reflects the very spirit of the people in our area. When in need, we come together to lend a helping hand. For many of us it is just part of our jobs. But as you read the stories in this issue, you will find that it is much more than that. Public works employees responded to the needs of others without regard to their own safety or concerns.

**Sonny Chiorazzo** put his own concerns on hold to help during emergency operations. **Terry Fox** and **Shawn McGinn** saved the lives of the children involved in a head-on collision. **Ray Mussill** stepped up to the plate to help the residents at Honus Wagner Plaza.

Behind the scenes, **Mike Millner** and the **Fiscal** and **Payroll staffs** assisted with the financial aspect of disaster-related matters. On the road we have the **Engineering and Construction staff** making repairs to our damaged infrastructure.

I commend the employees of Public Works, as well as all those in our community, who keep the spirit of humanity alive and well in Allegheny County.

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

# Heroes Assist Crash Victims at Round Hill

Friday, September 3, started out as a routine day for **Terry Fox**, and **Shawn McGinn**, laborers. Their plans for the day were to prepare Round Hill for the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend.

But then just before noon they witnessed the unthinkable. A car on Simpson Howell Road bordering Round Hill Park in Elizabeth Township crossed over the center lane and hit a truck head-on. While the driver and passenger of the truck sustained minor injuries, the three occupants of the car, ages 16, 13 and 10, were trapped in the wreckage.

Terry and Shawn immediately responded making the difference between life and death. Shawn called 911 as they fled to the scene.

Terry found one of the young passengers of the car choking on her seat belt. He cut the belt to free her from the chokehold. As a result, she suffered only bumps and bruises. The other passenger suffered a severe eye injury while the driver drifted in and out of consciousness. Terry and Shawn, unable to remove them from the wreckage, stayed with them until emergency responders arrived on the scene with the Jaws of Life.

The driver and his younger brother and sister were flown by helicopter to Children's Hospital. Had it not been for Terry and Shawn, they may not have survived the crash. They later found out that a bee flew

into the car distracting the driver and its occupants before colliding with the truck.

Terry's and Shawn's heroic efforts did not go unnoticed. The Elizabeth Township Board of Commissioners formally commended them at the October 4, 2004 General Business Meeting. In addition, District 9 Council Member **C. L. Jabbour** and Director **Tom Donatelli** presented

"[Terry's and Shawn's] ability to reach out to someone in need without regard to self is a wonderful reflection of the kind of people employed by Allegheny County," says Tom Donatelli. "Their courage is admired and valued."

them with a proclamation of recognition and commendation at the November 16, 2004 Council Meeting.

Terry and Shawn displayed heroism by selflessly attending to the needs of others. "Their ability to reach out to someone in need without regard to self is a wonderful reflection of the kind of people employed by Allegheny County," says Tom Donatelli. "Their courage is admired and valued." ❖

*story idea by Jerry LaFrankie,  
Round Hill maintenance  
supervisor*

# Carnegie Residents Grateful for PW Hero

The rain that day started at 6:00 a.m. and continued until 1:00 a.m. the next day – a total of 19 hours which brought close to seven inches of rain. By early afternoon on September 17, 2004, a lot of towns were in danger of flooding. Carnegie, whose last flood came in the fall of 1956, would get hit the worst. **Ray Mussill**, construction and engineering inspector, was involved not only as a worker, but also as a hero.

Ray alerted **Ron Ruzzini**, supervisor of Maintenance District 2, about heavy water coming down the hillside onto Campbell's Run Road near Carnegie. Ray stopped traffic from entering a dangerous situation until the police arrived. Heading to the Honus Wagner Plaza, a senior citizen home on Third Avenue where his mother, Florence Pachasa, resides, the water was already rising quickly from nearby Chartiers Creek. Ray parked his car when he saw Lee Rettinger, a physically challenged resident requiring leg braces and crutches. Lee was nearly ready to fall from the force of the gushing water. He was soaked, scared and growing weaker as he attempted to get into the building.

Dolores Mulaney and I, being elderly, could not help but could only watch from the window. We watched Ray save

his life! Lee's boss, who is deaf, arrived in her car to help. Step by step Ray walked Lee to his boss's car while trying to communicate to her that she should not come into the water to assist him. It took at least 20 minutes as Ray had to be

home where he and his wife, Marie, gave her dry clothes, food, and a place to stay for the night.

Nobody could get to or even call the Honus Wagner Plaza. Florence, Dolores and I reside on the third floor. We remained

safe from the flood waters and had power from emergency generators. The remaining residents were evacuated from the building the next day.

Ray has been with Allegheny County since 1971 and has plenty of experience with floods. Not only has he worked in many floods that occurred in the low-lying areas of Pittsburgh over the years but he also

assisted in the Johnstown Flood of 1977.

For the next two weeks, Ron Ruzzini, and his crew -- drivers, **Jay Clemens, Tom Feeney, Bill Jones, John Kaylor, Bill McMeekin, and Nick Sansotta**; heavy equipment operators **John Mattiello and John Miller**; and laborers, **John Shenk, Jim Turzak and Patrick Wise** -- were involved in the clean-up efforts in Carnegie as well as Oakdale and Rosslyn Farms. The residents of Honus Wagner Plaza are extremely grateful for the quick response and the great job they did removing the mud, trees and other debris from around our building. Thank you. ❖

*story by Jane Simpson, neighbor of Ray Mussill's mother*



The effects of Tropical Depression Ivan at the intersection of Third Avenue and Third Street in Carnegie.

extremely careful of Lee's condition.

Six hours later, another resident, Karen Maksa, who is mentally challenged, was walking along Washington Avenue with three large bags of clothing and groceries heading for Main Street which was flooded. Ray was driving down Washington Avenue when he came upon her. She was soaked, tired and confused. She couldn't understand why she couldn't get to her home. "I just have to walk down Main Street to reach my building," she said. She didn't understand that she couldn't walk through 5 to 7 inches of water.

Ray put her and her bags into his car and drove her to his

# Budgets Take a Blow from Ivan

Although it is widely known that Tropical Depression Ivan had a direct impact on the lives of many residents in the affected communities of Allegheny County, little is known about the direct impact Ivan had on the Public Works Department's Operating and Capital Budgets. Public Works was a major player in the recovery efforts.

The impact on the Operating Budget alone was enormous, but thanks to the excellent teamwork between our Fiscal Office and the County Budget Office, we rose to meet the challenge in a time of tight County finances.

To track the Ivan-related non-personnel payments in J. D. Edwards, we had a transfer of funds into an account in the Traffic Shop budget. We worked closely with the Budget Office on periodic updates of the eligible costs for reimbursement by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). The efforts paid off when

Governor Rendell presented the County with a grant of \$637,000 in early December for part of the County costs of which Public Works was a major contributory factor.

Our Operating Budget costs were \$1.2 million. Ivan impacted nearly 5% of our 2004 Operating Budget allocation. Broken down, for every dollar we spent \$.29 for personnel, \$.19 for trucking companies, \$.37 cents for landfill tipping fees, \$.13 for equipment costs and \$.02 for miscellaneous costs.

I wish to express my gratitude to **Tom Donatelli**, director, **Tom Kelley**, deputy director of administration and operations, and my partner, **Kathe Utzig**, fiscal analyst, for working with me to track the costs of Ivan. Finally, a special round of applause to Payroll – **Carla Severino-Bruno**, payroll manager, **Sue Hosack** and **Susan Leukhardt**, payroll specialists, -- for tracking the labor and equipment costs beyond the call of duty. ❖

*by Mike Millner, fiscal analyst*



**HIGHER GROUND** continued from page 1 the first on the scene. They spent the next week and a half in the clean-up efforts in Etna and Millvale. They used high lifts to assist in debris removal some of which turned out to be Sonny's furniture.

Sonny returned to his home only to find out he lost everything in the flood. His living room, dining room and kitchen were covered in mud and sludge. The water level reached the first 8 to 10 steps leading to the second floor. His car was destroyed.

Cherry and Sycamore Streets were abandoned. Eight to ten buildings were condemned in this one-block area with mold being the worst problem. Some of the sights were like scenes from a disaster movie – only this was real. "There was a limo piled on top of cars," says Sonny.

Sonny has moved to higher ground in Morningside. He, along with the many other affected flood victims, are grateful to all those who assisted during this crisis, including the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. He is grateful to the **Traffic Division** and all of our public works crews who are noted for going above and beyond to help those in need. "Karl and Bobby did a great job," says Sonny. "And I especially want to thank Joe Olczak and Tom Donatelli who coordinated the clean-up efforts so well." ❖

*story idea by Sonny Chiorazzo,  
Boyce Park maintenance  
supervisor*

**Project UPDATE**

At their December quarterly meeting, the Steering Committee for the American Public Works Association (APWA) Accreditation Project approved three more chapters from APWA's *Public Works Management Practices Manual*. The chapters on Safety (10 practices), Contract Administration (13 practices) and Snow Removal and Ice Control (13 practices) are awaiting review by the APWA Evaluation Team.

Task Force Committees are being formed for two more chapters – Procurement (6 practices) and Traffic Operations (35 practices) with more to soon follow. Human Resource Management (39 practices) and Right-of-Way Management (8 practices) are still undergoing self-assessment. Plans are to

accelerate the self-assessment process in 2005.

As a result of the self-assessment, other tangent projects have been initiated, such as the revision of the Winter Operations Manual. The manual is being revised not only as a convenient tool for winter operations personnel, but also to provide a consolidated resource as supporting documentation for APWA compliance. (See *Winter Operations Manual Gets an Overhaul* on page 6 of this newsletter.)

You can find more information about the APWA Accreditation Project by visiting the Allegheny County Public Works Department on the Intranet at **info.county.allegheny.pa.us/departments/publicworks/** or on the Internet at **www.county.allegheny.pa.us/publicworks/**. ❖

*by Cathy Trexler, project specialist*



**A Minute for Safety  
2004—An Excellent  
Year For Safety**

Congratulations to the employees of all Public Works maintenance districts, trades, and park maintenance areas for experiencing no lost-time injuries for the third quarter of 2004. During that same time, ten employees reported injuries that resulted in temporary restricted-duty assignments. All ten have since returned to full-duty status.

For the fourth quarter of 2004, congratulations are again in order for an outstanding safety record. During that time, only one lost-time injury occurred at District 1. That employee has since returned to full-duty status. Six employees experienced and reported injuries that resulted in restricted-duty assignments. Four of these employees are back at their regular-duty assignments.

When compared to 2003, 2004 proved to be a remarkable year. Lost workdays amazingly decreased from 1,003 in 2003 to 308 in 2004. Restricted workdays however, increased from 608 in 2003 to 955 in 2004. On the plus side, all those affected employees are back to their regular jobs except for two.

We hope to distribute safety incentives to our maintenance employees for these two excellent quarters as funding allows. Keep up the good work, and remember — *think safety and act safely* out there . . . ❖

*by Gene Pieszak, safety coordinator*

APWA Accreditation Project Status Self-Assessment Phase	Steering Committee Review and Approval							
	Form Task Force Committee	Orientation Meeting	First Draft	Second Draft	Peer Review	Final Draft		
2 Human Resource Management	C	C	IP	IP				
4 Finance	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
5 Risk Management	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
6 Communications	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
7 Information Technology and Telecommunications	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
9 Safety	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
12 Procurement	IP							
13 Contract Administration	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
14 Right-of-Way Management	C	C	IP					
26 Snow Removal and Ice Control	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
30 Traffic Operations	IP							

## GIS Staff Recognizes Importance, Benefits of Technology

### *GIS Day celebrated achievements and progress of the field*

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a technology that is utilized by numerous government agencies, corporations and businesses; however, few people realize its impact and contribution to the general public.

In an effort to raise public awareness about this technology, Allegheny County's GIS staff demonstrated its significance during a GIS Day celebration on November 17 in the lobby of the County Office Building.

GIS professionals from throughout the community conducted demonstrations and provided background information on the technology.

They were available to discuss career opportunities and how the technology is used in our everyday lives. For example, GIS professionals manage critical assets and identify and describe street addresses, school districts and zoning boundaries; natural and environmental resources; transportation networks; infrastructure; census information and centers of economic activity. ❖

*adapted from November 16,  
2004 News Release*

## Winter Operations Manual Gets an Overhaul

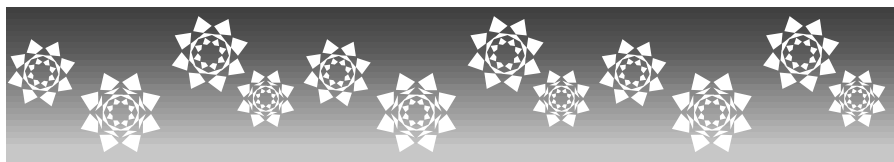
Preparation for winter operations normally begins in mid-September. Supervisors provide an employee orientation and training of snow and ice control procedures, vehicles are scheduled for pre-winter snow inspection, and snow maps are reviewed. This year, however, Public Works has teamed up with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Section of the Division of Computer Services to enhance the Winter Operations Manual.

While **George Brown**, **Priscilla Burdelski**, and **Bernie LaVelle** of GIS are busy preparing maps, **Cathy Trexler**, project specialist, has been busy revising the text to comply with APWA standards. **Larry McDonald**, road consultant, and **Bill Connery**,

information and records coordinator, have been diligently working on updating roads lists. **Joe Olczak**, deputy director of maintenance, and supervisors **Bill Bost**, **Walt Chuchla**, **Lou Coyner**, **Joe Hursen**, **Dom Marasco**, **Bill Price**, **Jim Roach**, **Ron Ruzzini**, **Jim Schrott** and **Bill Seibert**, and are reviewing all the material for accuracy.

When completed, the manual will prove to be a valuable tool for our winter operations personnel. In addition, it can assist supervisors and managers in other areas of public works regarding issues such as budgeting, inventory, and agility agreements. ❖

*by Cathy Trexler, project specialist*



**ASHE Award:** Don Killmeyer (left), deputy director of engineering and construction, and Tom Donatelli, director, proudly accept the 2004 Outstanding Highway Engineering Award for the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project at the American Society of Highway Engineers Pittsburgh Section awards ceremony in October.

## ***In the Work Zone***

# **Engineering Division: 2004 Accomplishments and 2005 Initiatives**

In 2004 the Engineering & Construction Division of the Public Works Department had over 100 capital projects either under design or in construction. This work affected many County-owned bridges, roads, buildings and parks. The assignment that had the most impact was the work involved with assessing and repairing the County's infrastructure that was damaged by the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan in September. Over six million dollars were allocated from the Capital Program to repair and replace bridges, walls and roads damaged by Ivan. As a result of this storm, the Engineering and Construction Division had to manage, under emergency conditions, eighteen unanticipated projects. Much of this work began within a week of the storm using County emergency contracting provisions. Most of the work has been completed and the remaining construction will be finished in early 2005. Fortunately the County expects to be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and/or the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for much of this work.

The following highlights the major Capital Budget projects completed in 2004 and those planned for 2005.

### ***Bridges***

Final design and right-of-way plans were completed for the Homestead Grays Bridge Rehabilitation. The project includes bridge deck widening, structural repairs, historic renovations, new sidewalks, lighting and complete repainting. Also included will be the installation of a new steel bridge safety parapet in lieu of the standard concrete barrier. This unique steel safety parapet will maintain the view from the bridge. One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction on the bridge throughout the project. The work will take at least two years to complete and should begin in late spring.

In addition, three smaller bridges were replaced or repaired in 2004 with an additional four planned for reconstruction in 2005. We also began the design for the rehabilitation of the Mansfield Bridge and the design of at least three other smaller structures.

### ***Roads***

Our annual paving program completed the resurfacing and/or reconstruction of over 33 miles of roads in 2004. We will continue our paving program in 2005 by paving or reconstructing over 35 miles of roads this summer. Included in this year's plans is the reconstruction and widening of the Babcock Boulevard at Three Degree Road intersection, a federally funded project that will completely reconstruct the intersection, including the signals and roadway drainage.

### ***Buildings and Parks***

In 2004 we completed the design and advertised for bids for the new public health laboratory with anti-bioterrorism capabilities to be built at the Health Department's Clack Health Center in Lawrenceville. This \$3.5 million, two-story building will enable the Health Department to provide for routine testing for infectious diseases. In addition, a separate area of the building will house a special "Bio-Safety Level 3" lab with special ventilation systems and safety features to allow for the testing of hazardous pathogens that could be used by bioterrorists.

Work to replace the windows and roof at the County Morgue began late in 2004 and will be completed in 2005. In South Park we replaced equipment and piping at the Skating Rink and built a new restroom facility near the concert area. In anticipation of the 2005 Senior Olympics, we constructed two new softball fields at North Park.

This year we plan to install a new electrical distribution system in the County Office Building. A site has been selected, adjacent to the County Airport, for the new maintenance warehouse and design should begin this year. Designs for the additions to the Police and Fire Training Academy in North Park and the renovations to the South Park performance stage should also be completed this year. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer on the new Independent Living Facilities at the Glen Hazel Kane. Finally, in response to public demand, we will begin construction on new Skateboard Parks beginning in South Park and eventually building similar but unique facilities in Boyce and North Parks. ❖

*by Don Killmeyer, deputy director, engineering and construction*

# Traditional Amish Barn Raising at Oliver Miller Homestead in South Park

A traditional Amish barn raising occurred on December 14 at the Oliver Miller Homestead in South Park.

For the last several months, Allegheny County's public works and parks departments have worked with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation to construct an historic replica of an 18th century barn on the Oliver Miller Homestead in South Park.

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's project manager, Tom Keffer, worked with the architectural firm of Landmark Design Associates and general contractor Lee Bruder to contract with Amish Timber Framers of Doylestown, Ohio. The Amish construct native timber frames with mortice and tenon joints using wood pegs - the construction method of 200 years ago. No metal screws or fasteners are used on the timbers in this barn. The Amish began erecting the timber framing and continued to work for three days to complete the framing work.

In addition to the historic timber framing, the roof is covered with recycled material of simulated shakes, which will remain fairly maintenance free, for its 40-50 year life span.

"This important addition will serve the region for years to come and improve our ability to attract visitors and engage the public in the historic events that occurred on

the Homestead," said Allegheny County Chief Executive **Dan Onorato**.

According to the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Oliver Miller Homestead, built in 1772, was a two-story log house with a shingle roof — a rare structure for that period.

It was at the Oliver Miller Homestead that General John Neville and U.S. Marshall David Lenox went on July 15, 1794 to serve a warrant on William Miller, for failure to register his still. An argument ensued and shots were fired by the farmers working in nearby fields.

The first shots of the Whiskey Rebellion had been fired. Two days later, 500 irate farmers, led by John Holcroft, stopped at Fort Couch where the Reverend John Clark of Bethel Church pleaded for

peace. The farmers went ahead to burn down Neville's Bower Hill Mansion.

In 1808 James Miller, added a stone section to the log house, and in 1830, the original log house was replaced with a large stone section, making it as it stands today. In 1934 it became a National Registered Landmark building.

The Oliver Miller Homestead Associates, a volunteer organization with 40 members locally was formed in 1973. Long time member Paula Bowman said: "The Associates are excited about this addition to the Homestead as the barn will afford us the opportunity to display historic artifacts and ephemera and to offer educational outreach to the community."

Allegheny County worked with the Oliver Miller Homestead Associates to secure a \$500,000 state grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development to build the barn. ❖

*adapted from December 13, 2004 news release*



Amish workers from the Amish Timber Framers of Doylestown, Ohio erect framework on new barn.

*Photo courtesy of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Association*

# Flood Aid Concert Benefits Ivan Victims

Local rocker, Joe Grushecky, was stunned when he saw firsthand the devastation in Carnegie where his band, Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers, stores their equipment. Carnegie was one of the hardest hit areas after the remnants of Hurricane Ivan swept through the area.

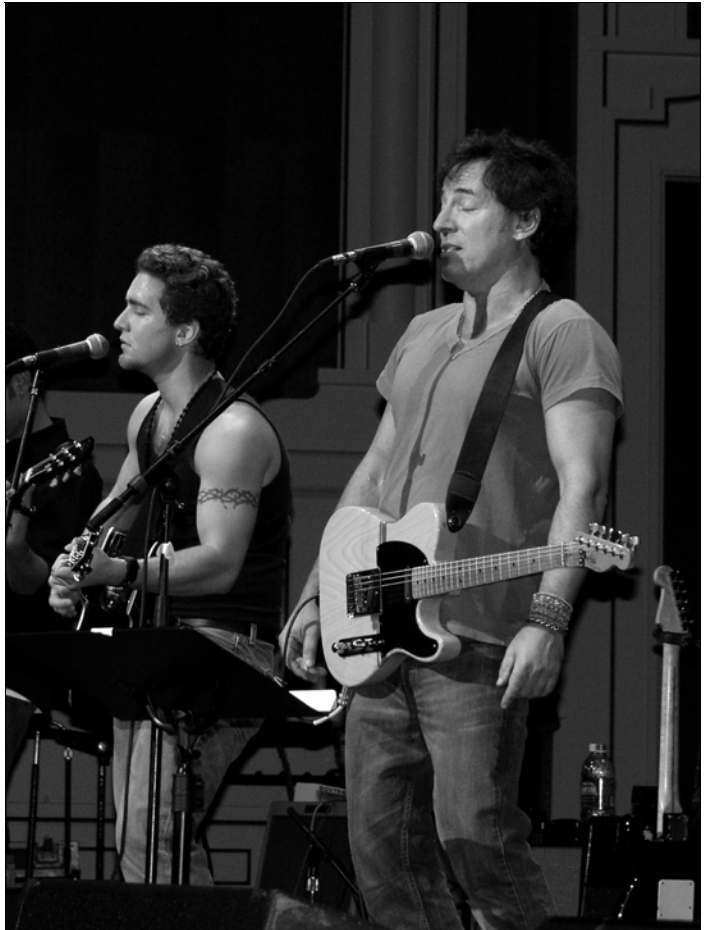
Joe came up with the idea of Flood Aid 2004, a concert to benefit the flood-stricken areas of Allegheny County. He contacted **Larry Kuzmanko**, director of special events, to plan a concert that would be a celebration of Pittsburgh rock.

Larry and Joe began contacting local musicians to fill the bill. Many local musicians, however, including Johnny Angel and the Halos, Billy Price and 8<sup>th</sup> Street Rox, couldn't be slotted on such short notice but volunteered their services.

In early November, the Houserockers performed at the Light of Day benefit concert in Asbury, New Jersey, along with Joe's long-time pal, Bruce Springsteen. After the show, Joe told Bruce about Flood Aid and he immediately asked what he could do.

Bruce became the featured attraction joined by local artists, Joe Grushecky and the Houserockers, Donnie Iris, B.E. Taylor, Rick Witkowski, Bill Deasy, Rob James, Jill West and Blues Attack and Johnny Grushecky. The sold-out concert was held on December 2 at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh. Proceeds from the concert amounting to approximately \$270,000 were donated to the Salvation Army to be distributed in flood-stricken areas of Allegheny County. ❖

*by Cathy Trexler, project specialist*



Michael Strollo, lead singer of Exit 105, performs with the Boss, **Bruce Springsteen** at the Flood Aid concert held on December 2, 2004 at Heinz Hall in downtown Pittsburgh.

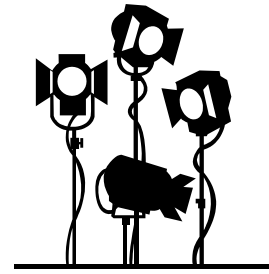


**More shots of the performers** (left to right): Joe with Bruce, B.E. Taylor, Donnie Iris, and Larry K.???



*Photos courtesy of Margaret Stanley, county photographer*

# In the Spotlight



**Name:** Chuck Berie

**Job Title, Location:** Groundskeeper, North Park

**Primary Job Function:** Maintaining the golf course, currently on military leave serving at Camp Bucca, Iraq with the 107<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery regiment of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

**Favorite Part of My Job:** Chuck enjoys the atmosphere of the park. He enjoys cutting the greens and keeping the golf course grounds beautiful.

**Years of Service:** 22

**Family:** Wife, Lorraine. This is the second marriage for both of us. We were married right before he was deployed in December 2003.

**Hobbies/Interests:** Chuck enjoys cooking and is very good at it. He was sent to Iraq as an MP, but when on reserve duty at home he is the mess sergeant

cooking for 300. He is also an avid woodworker and enjoys making things. He actually outfitted the supply room at his base in Iraq with new shelves and cabinets.

**Best Character Trait:** I think Chuck's best character trait is his honesty and his willingness to pitch in to help anyone in need.

**What Would Surprise People About Me:** Chuck served in Vietnam and has been in the Reserves for 38 years. He's active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars West View Post 2754 and has been past post commander and past district commander. He is usually the parade chairman for West View's Memorial Day Parade. He is a life member of West View Volunteer Fire Department #3 and coached the West View/Ross youth football team for 20 years.

*Thanks to Chuck's wife, Lorraine, for completing our questionnaire and providing a photo.*



**Name:** Tom Kelley

**Job Title, Location:** Deputy Director, County Office Building

**Primary Job Function:** Oversight of public works administrative functions including fiscal/budget control, purchasing, fleet management, computer information systems, facilities services, human resources, APWA accreditation, grant management, safety and special projects.

**Favorite Part of My Job:** Getting things done! I enjoy working with people, developing new programs, and contributing to the success of others. The County has provided me with a wide range of challenging job opportunities, and has always been a great place to work.

**Years of Service:** A total of 25 years. Jobs have included laborer, planner, budget analyst, productivity administrator, administrative services deputy director and a few others along the way.

**Family:** Wife Pam and sons Brendan and Evan

**Hobbies/Interests:** I like to spend time with my wife and sons. I enjoy swimming. Every morning I get up at 5 a.m. and swim for 40 minutes.

**Other hobbies/interests:** Fishing, reading, home improvement projects, reading, blowing up my computers, and recording and listening to all types of music.

**Pet Peeve:** Winter weather in Pittsburgh.

**My Best Character Trait:** Sincerity and tenacity. If I tell someone that I will do something, I do it.

**My Most Unusual Experience:** Removing more than 20,000 cubic feet of historical records from the Courthouse attic.

**What Would Surprise People About Me:** In 1969 I was a laborer at District 5. After 25 years of service I am leaving the County on January 28 to pursue another job opportunity. I will miss you all.



# On the Move

## New Hires/Rehires:

**Philip Perino**, Driver, District 1  
**Richard Rossi**, Laborer, Boyce Park

## Retirements:

**Antonio Costa**, Laborer, Building Trades  
**Edward Oswald**, Laborer, District 7

## Resignations:

**Thomas Kelley**, Deputy Director, COB

## Service Milestones: \*

### 35 Years

**Richard Matassa**, Laborer, District 3

### 30 Years

**Charles Dato**, Materials Test Supervisor, COB  
**Robert James, Jr.**, Driver, Boyce Park  
**William McMeekin**, Driver, District 2  
**Samuel Sandsberry**, Driver, Buttermilk Hollow  
**Thomas Super, Jr.**, Tree Pruner, North Park

### 25 Years

**Deborah Lewis**, DBE Administrator, COB  
**Allan Lombardo**, Equipment Operator C1A,  
District 4  
**David Pecora**, Laborer, Harrison Hills  
**James Reardon**, Electrician Supervisor, Electric  
Shop  
**Larry Sroka**, Construction Supervisor, COB  
**James Welsh**, Laborer, District 5

### 20 Years

**Gerald LaFrankie**, Park Manager, Round Hill  
**Stephen Momich**, Laborer, South Park  
**Regis Scheller**, Heavy Equipment Mechanic,  
Equipment Shop  
**David Watts**, Driver, District 3

### 15 Years

**Ray Benvenuti**, Laborer, South Park  
**William Bost**, Laborer, District 4  
**Daniel Casserly**, Laborer, Settlers Cabin  
**Jeffrey Conte**, Cement Finisher, 40<sup>th</sup> St. Warehouse  
**Joseph Cshok**, Laborer, District 4  
**Peter Economos**, Laborer, District 5  
**Eric Eighmy**, Laborer, District 1  
**Thomas Griffin**, Laborer, Settlers Cabin  
**Domenic Marasco Jr.**, Laborer, District 3  
**Bonnie Martin**, Regional Maintenance Coordinator,  
White Oak  
**William Orfeo**, Senior Contract Specialist, COB  
**Kenneth Scott III**, Driver, District 5

### 10 Years

**Robert Gillner**, Manager Fleet Services, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Garage  
**Mark Smrdel**, Heavy Equipment Mechanic,  
District 4

### 5 Years

**William Berberich, Jr.**, Sign Craftsman, Traffic  
Division  
**Dowis Greer**, Stationery Engineer, Stationery  
Engineers Shop  
**James Kelly, Jr.**, Laborer, North Park  
**Ronald Moore, Sr.**, Steamfitter, COB  
**Kenneth Richards**, Carpenter, Carpenter Shop  
**Renato Ruzzini**, Regional Maintenance Supervisor,  
District 2  
**John Williams III**, Skilled Worker, Carpenter Shop

*\*Based on DCS payroll data information.*



# From the Mailbag

Dear Joe (Olczak):

The County Maintenance people came this week to cut down several trees in the South Park wooded area bordering my property. These were the trees you inspected and agreed they were a problem and needed to come down.

The crew of **Tim (Dworek)** the saw man, his helper (**Ralph Davis**) plus **Steve (Momich)** and his buddy (**Mike Sedota**) did a super job. I was very impressed by their skill to get the job done right.

So thanks to you, **Rich (Daniels)** and his crew, I feel much better knowing the trees are gone and are no longer a threat to my backyard pool area.

*Very truly yours,*

*Paul Brecht  
Bethel Park*



Dear Tom (Donatelli):

During Dan Onorato's tour in June, we had inquired about the County's assistance in opening the lower end of River Ridge Road to provide an emergency exit out of the borough. With material provided by the County, coordinated by **Rich Daniels** at the South Park facility, the project was completed with no cost to the borough. Thank you to all who were involved in the project, and for the continued support you provide to the small communities of the County, such as ours.

*Sincerely,*

*Jane Weigand  
Council President  
Borough of Liberty*



Dear Mr. (Don) Killmeyer:

This letter is to acknowledge the fantastic help given to Emsworth Borough by Allegheny County Construction Engineering Manager **Steven Hrvoich** on September 18 during the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan.

The storm on Friday, September 17 had wiped out a street behind Camp Horne Road leaving some of our borough residents with no access to their homes. Through Robert A. Full, Allegheny County Chief of Emergency Services, Mr. Hrvoich brought a crew of excellent and personable County employees in and built a temporary road.

These dedicated workers included Supervisor **Charlie Madden**, truck drivers **Don Martuseaich**, **Ernie Gil**, **Kevin Lutz** and **Joe Hogg**, and heavy

equipment operators **Dave Fassinger** and **Eddie Kreuzer**.

We thank Allegheny County for their support. During these times of potential job cuts, it is hoped consideration is given that employees are needed not only on a daily basis but during emergencies also.

*Sincerely,*

*Maria S. West  
President  
Emsworth Borough Council*



Dear **Jim (Blettner)**:

Wanted to write you a short note to thank you and **Bobby Douglas** and the others who helped make Settlers Pool look so great this past summer. We will really miss Bobby. He was someone special.

In all my years at Settlers, I never saw it in such great shape. Never did I hear so many nice things said about it like I did this summer. Unfortunately the weather and road construction hurt.

At any rate, I want you to know how much we appreciate your help.

*Have a good year,*

*Jim Laughlin  
Settlers Concession*



Dear Tom (Donatelli):

A note of appreciation for the assistance provided by your department cleaning the mud and debris in the fountain at Point State Park. **Nancy (Stinner)**, **Dave (Zozom)** and **Rich (Donofrio)** did a tremendous job and we acknowledge their hard work. The vector turned out to be exactly what we needed. I can only hope we don't go through that process ever again! Thanks for your continual support and cooperation.

*Sincerely,*

*Michael A. Gable  
Assistant Director  
City of Pittsburgh  
Department of  
Public Works*



*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  
County Office Building, Room 501  
542 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**Editor, Layout and Design:**  
Cathy Trexler, project specialist  
ctrexler@county.allegheny.pa.us