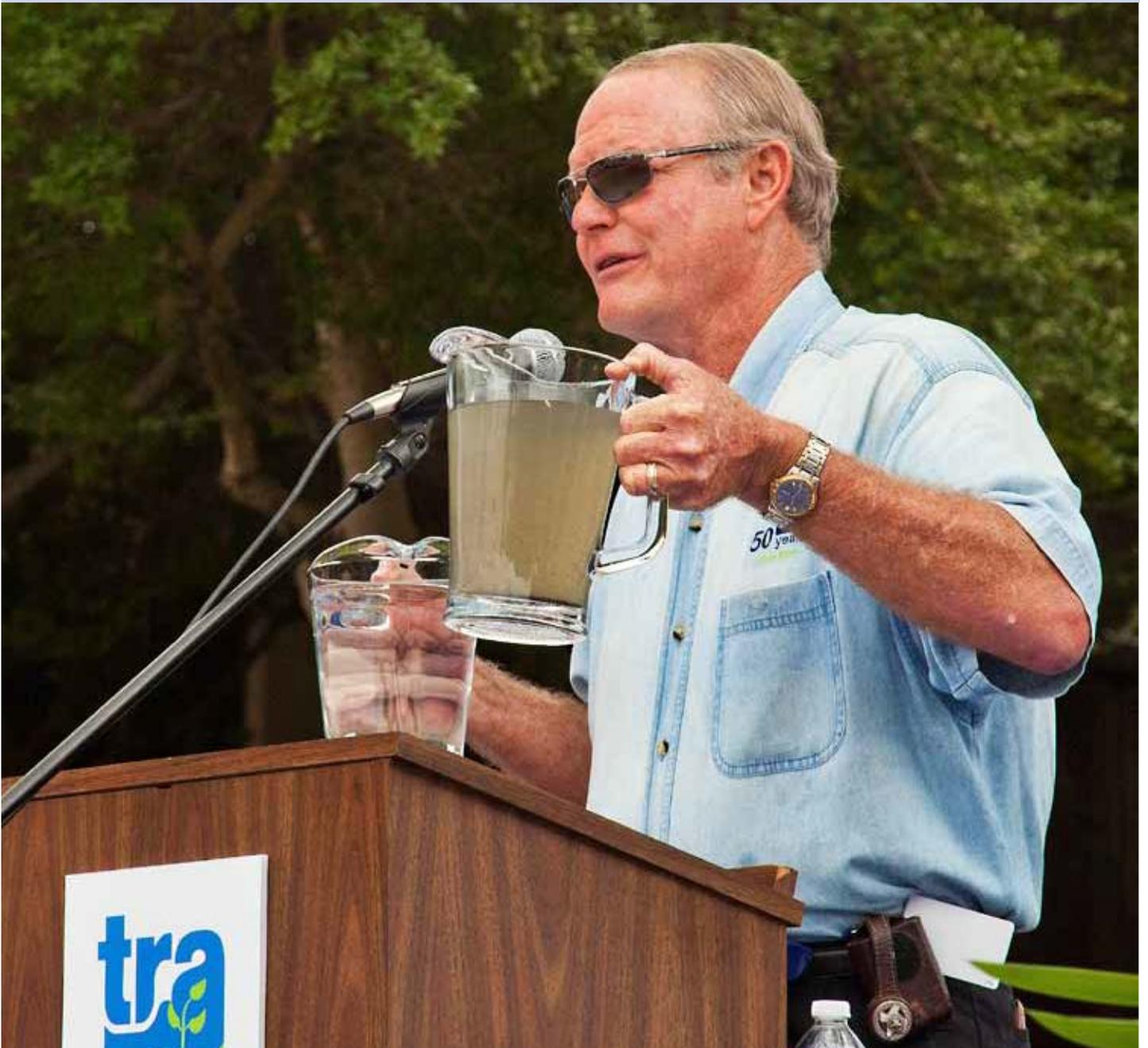


August/September 2013



Newsletter of the Trinity River Authority of Texas



Central Regional Wastewater System celebrates a milestone

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Training and development keeps us moving forward



General Manager J. Kevin Ward

I believe that the value added by training is undeniable. In this instance, I am referring to the kind of instruction that increases one's knowledge, skills, abilities, confidence and initiative. Our strategic planning vision statement guides us using words such as innovative and adaptive. Training is at the core of what spurs innovation,

and it also helps TRA adapt and move forward. Educational opportunities are everywhere. For starters, while engaged in normal everyday processes at work, we can learn from each other, help train a staff member or gain knowledge by simply listening. Additionally, more formal workplace development may be offered in a classroom setting, online, or at a workshop or a conference. Taking advantage of these opportunities can lead to individual and collective accomplishments that benefit employees, TRA and its stakeholders. Most recently, CRWS reached a milestone (read the story on page 3) by treating and discharging one trillion gallons of wastewater without any permit violations. How did this happen? The answer begins with training. Coupled with commitment, dedication and an understanding of how the system works, each person who was involved from beginning

to end added to this achievement. Throughout TRA, there are many examples of how a culture of hard work and shared knowledge has helped improve our processes and services. I am keenly aware that without the guidance and support that I have received, I would not be where I am today. And that is why I encourage development at all levels of TRA. Recently, managers and supervisors were asked to complete a survey to assess their management skills. Feedback from these surveys will help the organization identify related needs and offer strategies and solutions. I'd like to ask each member of the TRA family to join me in committing to a process of continuous training. This commitment will help keep us on the forefront of new and emerging technology and business practices, and it will connect us to the people and ideas that improve the work that we do locally and regionally.

NACWA declares war to protect our pipes, pumps and plants

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies has heard from more and more of its members about the expensive problems caused by wipes and other non-dispersible products that are flushed into the sewer systems. Utilities across the country are spending millions of dollars to clean these products out of their pumps and other equipment and to replace equipment that should have had many more useful years of service. The issue has received tremendous media attention in the last few months, including a front page story in The Washington Post, an article in The Associated Press and multiple local television spots featuring NACWA and its member utilities. Given the far-reaching impacts of wipes and other products on clean water agencies, NACWA is launching a new campaign to protect your pipes, pumps, and plants by reducing

the harmful materials that are flushed or drained into the sewer system. These products include wipes, pharmaceuticals, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, FOG (fats, oils, and greases), as well as product additives such as triclosan. This issue is a top priority for the Association and exemplifies the type of aggressive advocacy leadership that NACWA provides for the clean water community. NACWA will focus on changing consumer behavior through public education and media outreach to ensure that manufacturers and consumers understand that toilets are not trash cans. NACWA will also be working with industry and retailers to improve labeling and product stewardship. In addition to such collaborative efforts with corporations and other associations, NACWA is researching and prepared to pursue all appropriate legal,

legislative, and regulatory actions to ensure that these products are kept out of the sewers. As this campaign unfolds, NACWA will continue to directly address wipes and to build on the work that it has done in the past years with the Water Environment Federation the American Public Works Association, and INDA (the association of the nonwoven fabrics industry) to improve flushability guidelines and product labeling with the "do not flush" logo as one strategy to keep these products out of the sewer system. NOTE: This text is from information shared by Ken Kirk, executive director of NACWA. A complete list of media coverage and other resources may be found on NACWA's website at www.nacwa.org/flushables.



During the Central Regional Wastewater System's trillion gallons celebration, Bill Tatum, project manager, held up a pitcher of wastewater influent and a pitcher filled with treated wastewater to highlight the top-quality effluent that TRA discharges to the Trinity River. Full story, page 3.

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See more stories online in Current News.

TRA's board of directors tour Northern, Southern regions



Members of the TRA board of directors tour CRWS. From left to right: C. Dwayne Somerville; Henry Borbolla III; Valerie E. Ertz; Dudley K. Skyrme; Bill Tatum, project manager, CRWS; Fiona M. Allen, northern region manager; Tommy G. Fordyce; Kevin Ward, general manager.

In September, members of TRA's board of directors toured the Northern and Southern Region operations for an up-close-and-personal look at the work that goes on in these areas. Directors Henry Borbolla III, Tarrant County; Valerie E. Ertz, Dallas County; Tommy G. Fordyce, Walker County; Dudley K. Skyrme, Anderson County and C. Dwayne Somerville, Freestone County participated in the North Texas portion of the tour. General Manager Kevin Ward escorted the group in both regions.

The directors experienced a variety of sights and sounds starting with the Mountain Creek Regional Wastewater System and then proceeded to TRA's other four Northern Region wastewater treatment plants. Each stop along the tour provided an opportunity for the directors to see things such as clarifiers, basins, barscreens and other components of the treatment process. Staff who conducted the wastewater tours beamed with pride as they showed off their sparkling effluent. At the Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System, Plant Manager John Bennett pointed out two rows of 18-foot cedar trees. The trees were planted as one of several measures TRA has taken to be a good neighbor to a nearby subdivision and school. The Northern Region tour concluded at the Tarrant County Water Supply Project.

Director Christina Melton Crain of Dallas County joined the group, minus Director Borbolla, for the Southern Region visit. The tour, led by Southern Region Manager Jim Sims, included three water treatment facilities, a scenic drive through TRA's Wolf Creek Park and a walk along Lake Livingston Dam.

"Starting in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and then heading south highlights the importance of cleaning the wastewater before it enters the Trinity River and becomes the water that is treated for drinking by our neighbors down south," noted Director Ertz. "It puts all of the pieces together in a complete picture."

"We want the tours to answer questions and create questions while increasing our board's knowledge of the mechanisms, machinery and processes that are in place. This collective awareness is one of the keys to meeting current and future needs," commented Ward.



Trinity County Regional Water Supply System's pet alligator poses for a photo during the TRA board of directors' tour.



TRA board of directors tour the Lake Livingston Dam. From left to right: Tommy G. Fordyce; Christina Melton Crain; Kevin Ward, general manager; Valerie E. Ertz; C. Dwayne Somerville; Dudley K. Skyrme.



Worth Knowing: Learn the basics about flu season

WHAT IS INFLUENZA?

Influenza (flu) is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and sometimes death.

Keep your hands clean. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.

HOW DOES FLU SPREAD?

Most experts think that flu viruses are spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. A person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own eyes, mouth or nose. The influenza season typically runs from October through mid-May.

Cover your cough and your sneeze. Use a tissue or cover your mouth with your sleeve when you sneeze or cough. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

Avoid close contact. Especially with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF FLU?

- fever*
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- body aches
- headache
- chills
- fatigue
- sometimes diarrhea and vomiting

Stay at home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

Period of contagiousness: You may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be able to infect others for an even longer time.

*It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF FROM GETTING SICK FROM FLU?

Get vaccinated. This is an important first step toward fighting seasonal flu. It helps protect you and others. Vaccine is available for children [6 months and older] and adults. The flu shot takes about two weeks to become effective.

Certain people are at greater risk for serious complications if they get the flu. This includes older people, young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), and people who live in facilities like nursing homes.



CRWS celebrates a wastewater treatment milestone

The Trinity River Authority's Central Regional Wastewater System celebrated a momentous achievement on Sept. 19 when General Manager Kevin Ward announced that CRWS had treated and discharged one trillion gallons of wastewater during a 21-year period without any permit violations. "This is a celebration that we all have been anticipating, and we believe that CRWS is the first sanitary sewer system to have achieved this major milestone, which is a tremendous accomplishment in our industry," said Ward.

Among the more than 100 attendees were representatives from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the cities of Arlington, Euless and Grapevine and TRA staff members. Also in attendance were Directors Ronald J. Goldman, at large, Tarrant County; James W. Neale, Dallas County; Amir A. Rupani, at large, Dallas County and Kim C. Wyatt, Navarro County.

TRA Board President Harold L. Barnard shared his thoughts with the guests. "I have had the privilege to see firsthand the dedication and pride that TRA employees apply to what they do. An accomplishment of this magnitude can't happen without a strong work ethic, planning and leadership," said Barnard. "I know that the staff here will not rest on their laurels. They will continue to work toward the next trillion gallons. I am honored to have this opportunity to personally commend and congratulate everyone who helped make this day a reality. Keep up the great work!"

Ward added that the celebration highlights TRA's commitment to continuously work toward maintaining and improving the water quality in the Trinity River. "We rely on what we learn, what we know and the new technologies and innovations that will help us to continue our clean water services now and for decades to come," stated Ward.

Julie Hunt, Northern Region assistant manager of operations, acknowledged the challenges inherent in operating a plant the size of CRWS while applauding the committed team of planners, operators and responders for the work that they do every day. "I also would like to thank the men and women who came before us whose contributions helped make this day possible," added Hunt.

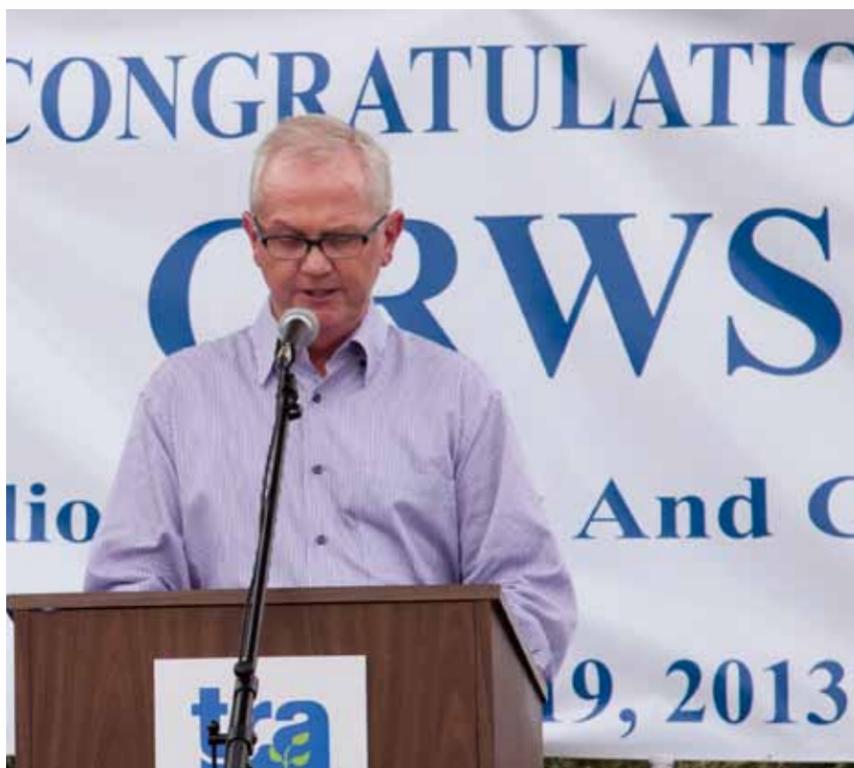
CRWS Project Manager Bill Tatum provided his perspective on the achievement. "Back in 1959, CRWS was designed to treat 30 million gallons per day as a trickling filter, oxidation wastewater facility. Today, the plant can treat monthly average flows of 162 million gallons per day," said Tatum.

"Our processes remove greater than 99.9 percent of all conventional pollutants from this wastewater before it is sent on its way down the Trinity," remarked Tatum. He added that from start to finish it takes approximately 12 hours, beginning from the time the waste leaves the homes across our service area, makes it to the plant and goes through more than 200 miles of collection system pipeline.

"It took 21 years to reach the trillion-gallon mark without any permit violations, and I have been here for all of them!" exclaimed Tatum.

To highlight the difference between the wastewater that comes into the treatment plant and the treated effluent that is discharged to the Trinity River, Tatum held up a pitcher of brownish water and a pitcher of clear effluent. He closed out his remarks by raising a glass filled with the effluent and toasting the men and women at CRWS and across the TRA system who helped make the celebration possible.

When CRWS began operations in December 1959, it was the first regional facility of its kind. It served Irving, Grand Prairie, Farmers Branch, and a portion of western Dallas. Today the system serves all or part of 21 contracting parties and approximately 1.2 million people in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.



Harold L. Barnard, president of the TRA board of directors, gives a congratulatory message at the trillion gallons celebration.



General Manager Kevin Ward congratulates the team at CRWS for their efforts in reaching this milestone.



1 TRILLION GALLONS

September 19, 2013
Central Regional Wastewater System



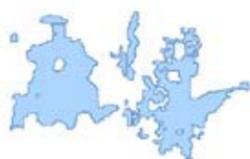
CRWS discharges a highly polished effluent to the Trinity River.

99.9%

Greater than 99.9 percent of all conventional pollutants are removed.



One trillion gallons is equal to a volume of water that is 1 square mile and over 4,795 feet in height.



One trillion gallons would submerge Dallas and Tarrant counties (a total area of 1,680 square miles) in two feet and 10 and a quarter inches of water.

7,933

It took 7,933 days to reach this milestone at more than 126 million gallons treated per day.

NEW HIRES

- TMCRRS welcomes **Michael Moore** as electronic tech chief and **Larry Colquitt** as operator I.
- TCWSP is excited to have **Tyler Mott** as operator I.
- **Jerry McGee** joins the team at LRF as part-time maintenance helper.
- LLP welcomes **Coy Placker** as part-time maintenance helper.
- **Bradley Barnard** joins HRWSS as part-time maintenance helper.
- GO is glad to have **Prerana Karki** as senior accounting clerk and **Vanassa Joseph** as communications manager.
- **James Couch** joins CSS as inspector II.
- CRWS welcomes **Marcos Martinez** and **Stacie Null** as operators I.
- **Rachel Amaro** joins the CRWS team as chemist, and **Anthony Chavarria** is welcomed as senior maintenance mechanic.

PROMOTIONS

- **Angela Kilpatrick** was promoted to senior environmental scientist at GO.
- **Agnes Marfo** was promoted to senior biologist at CRWS.
- **Keith Stone** was promoted to electronic technician II at TMCRRS.
- **Gerald Collins** was promoted to park ranger at LRF.

ANNIVERSARIES

35 YEARS

- **Cathy Sieger**, quality assurance coordinator, CRWS

25 YEARS

- **Arthur Henderson**, senior maintenance mechanic, LLP

10 YEARS

- **Troy Shelton**, inspector II, CSS
- **Elias Ruiz II**, maintenance mechanic II, TMCRRS

5 YEARS

- **Robert Ray**, chief maintenance mechanic, DCRWS
- **Andrew Moore**, operator II, DCRWS
- **Cliff Woods**, operator I, DCRWS
- **Jay Shannon**, maintenance engineer, CRWS
- **Vickie Richards**, park ranger, LRF
- **Chris Salazar**, storekeeper II, CRWS



2013 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN



General Office and
Construction Services

FINAL TEAM POINTS

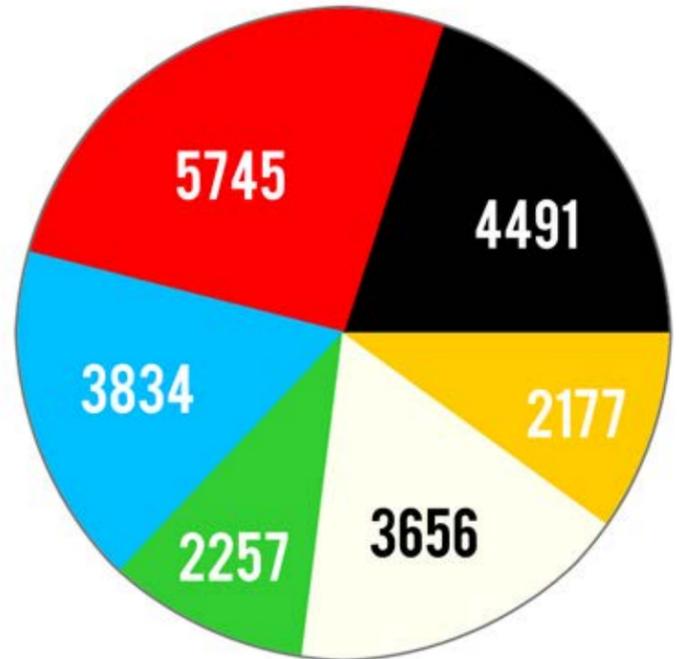
TOTAL FUNDS RAISED:

\$34,824

...the most ever raised
at the General Office!

WINNING TEAM: RED

Wayne Chen	Janet Marcello
Charles Burns	Gene Paul
Sherrie Dao	Laura Peña
Julie Hoppe	Richard Postma
Taylor Huynh	Claudine Rank
Prerana Karki	Peggy Stewart
Huong Le	Don Tucker
Vanessa Liu	Sherri van der Wege
Jesus Gomez-Longoria	



The Trinity River Authority's general office brought its 2013 United Way campaign to a close by raising \$34,824. Each employee was randomly selected and placed on the roster of one of six teams. Employees were able to support this worthy cause through one-time cash donations, payroll deductions and the purchase of blue-jean casual days. Money also was raised through friendly and competitive challenges and wagers playing such games as pingpong, basketball, golf and darts. The red team's hard work will be celebrated with a trip to the State Fair of Texas, compliments of our General Manager Kevin Ward.



Northern Region Manager of Engineering Services Bart Hines answers questions and distributes reusable grocery bags to students at UT Arlington's Engineering Welcome Bash.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES



There's no color like orange! CSS Inspector II Dustin Taylor is proud of his son Brandt, who is somewhere in that sea of orange. Brandt began his undergraduate studies at the University of Texas this September.



Congratulations to Michelle Davis, daughter of Susan Davis, Northern Region senior secretary, on passing her registry exam in August. She is now a registered technologist in radiography and magnetic resonance imaging. She also was featured in a television advertisement for her company, which has aired locally.



TCWSP Senior Biologist Gary Smith and Greg Pope, with a local engineering firm, presented a lecture at the North Central Texas American Water Works Association meeting in August. The lecture was titled "Manganese Control with Biofiltration."



David Hatley, CRWS lab supervisor, celebrated the birth of his grandson Caeden Louis Van Toorn on Aug. 6. Caeden's mother, Melissa Hatley Van Toorn, his father Darek, and his big brother Aaron are proud of the new addition to their family.

Peggy Stewart, general services executive secretary and her husband, Richard, celebrated 35 years of marriage on Sept. 2.



Employee Profile Christine Epps

Christine Epps, financial reporting manager, celebrated her one-year anniversary with TRA in August.

Epps enjoys working for TRA because it helps her balance her time between a rewarding career and enjoying time with her family. "I am pleased to have found a job that stimulates my mind and keeps me engaged while allowing me to put it down at the end of the day to spend quality time with my

family," Epps said.

Her favorite part of her job is the variety of people she gets to interact with daily. Everyone is incredibly knowledgeable and informative, and I enjoy being able to work with and learn from them," remarked Epps.

Her most memorable experience at TRA was completing all 507 pages of her first annual report as reporting manager. "After months of work, it was hard to believe that the day finally came that I did not have to review, alter or examine a single page," Epps recalls.

Epps and her husband, Brandon, have three children: Hunter, 13; Colton, 2; and Bradley, 1. Her favorite pastimes include playing ball, going to the park, walking and doing puzzles with her children. She also enjoys yard work and home improvement projects. Epps also admits that she enjoys playing Candy Crush Saga, an online puzzle game.



Joseph Joins TRA

The Trinity River Authority welcomes Vanassa Joseph as the new communications manager.

Joseph most recently served as a Senior Public Information Officer with Tarrant County's Health Department where she handled internal and external communications, which included media relations, spokesperson duties, special events, website administration, advertising and crisis/risk communications planning.

"Vanassa arrived just in time to help CRWS plan a celebration

to announce treating and discharging one trillion gallons of wastewater without any permit violations," said General Manager Kevin Ward. "We are glad to have her on board."

Joseph also has been able to tour the Northern and Southern Region operations. "I feel like I am where I need to be," said Joseph. "I have the opportunity to work at a revered organization, build on my predecessor's initiatives and also help TRA move in the direction of new, informative, targeted and engaging communications."

Joseph earned a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Arkansas.



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One Trillion Gallons

September 19, 2013



Central Regional Wastewater System
Trinity River Authority of Texas

The complex block features a large group photograph of approximately 100 people, including staff and guests, posing for a group photo outdoors. They are arranged in several rows, with some sitting at tables in the foreground and others standing behind. The background shows a large, modern building with a brick facade and a tree. The entire scene is framed by a light blue background with a large water drop graphic on the left side containing the 'intra' logo.

CRWS staff and guests pose for a group photo following the trillion gallons celebration.