

# IN THE WORKS

Winter 2004

## Looking Back and Moving Forward: Engineering Accomplishments and Initiatives

In 2003 over \$22 million worth of capital improvement projects were completed and opened to the public by the Engineering & Construction Division of the Public Works Department. This work affected many County owned bridges, roads, buildings and parks. The following highlights the major assignments com-

pleted in 2003 and those planned for 2004.

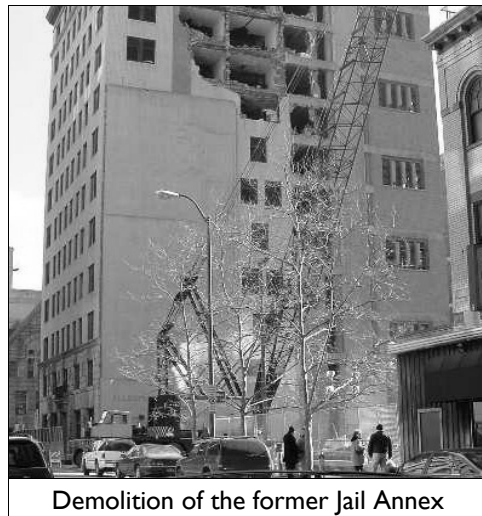
### Buildings and Parks

In 2003, we began the design of the new Human Services/Coroners Forensic Laboratory Building. Demolition of the former Jail Annex began in December 2003 to make way for this eight-story structure that will be located on Ross Street between Third and Fourth Avenues. Construction of the new facility, utilizing a design/build format, is expected to begin in mid-2004 (see separate article on page 4 ). New roofs were installed on the County Office Building, Glen Hazel Kane Regional Center, VIP Building in South Park and four smaller park buildings. The design of a new Bio-engineering Building, to be located at the Clack Center at 40<sup>th</sup> & Penn in Lawrenceville, began in August 2003.

A significant number of building-related projects will be under way in 2004. A site has been selected, adjacent to the County Airport, for the new maintenance warehouse. Design should be completed

this year. Construction will begin on the new Human Services/Coroners Laboratory Building as well as the new Laboratory at the Clack Center. Both the County Morgue and the Ross

Township Kane Regional Center are scheduled for roof replacements. Renovations will be completed to the first and third floors of the Glen Hazel Kane Regional Center, a new electrical distribution system will be installed in the County Office Building and new equipment and piping will be installed at the South Park Skating Rink. In anticipation of the 2005 Senior Olympics, we will be expanding and



Demolition of the former Jail Annex

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## One for the Road

I always have a sense of gratitude when I read the latest issue of *In the Works*. I am very thankful to you for all that you have accomplished. Reading the newsletter gives me a perspective of the Department's accomplishments which I do not always realize as I focus on our future goals. It's good to look back every so often to see just how far we have come.

There are many articles that demonstrate how well you all pull together as a team to make Public Works successful, like Don Mitsch's "Living Within Our Means." Don's article forced me to remember a quote from James F. Bell, "To face tomorrow with the thought of using the methods of yesterday is to envision life as a standstill. Each one of us, no matter what our task, must search for new and better methods, for even that which we now do well must be done better tomorrow."

We will all be faced with challenges this year, but we must continue to be creative and find better and more efficient solutions. You have the ability to conquer these challenges that will lead Public Works down the Road to Excellence.

I want to wish you the best throughout this year and have many successes.

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

## Living Within Our Means

Wow! What a year 2003 was to come in under budget again! Actually this is the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year the Department of Public Works has ended the fiscal year within budget. This is quite an accomplishment considering our budget has been frozen or cut 13 of the past 15 years.

Meeting the budget starts at the top. Each year the Director sets the tone, but I have never heard anything except "I don't want to go over budget this year." A lot of our personnel are involved in meeting the budget. For example 12 or 13 years ago we would start cutting back on purchases in December. Ten or 11 years ago we would start cutting back in November. It moved to October, then September, and a few years ago we started monitoring purchases in June or July. In 2003 **Ron Doria**, purchasing manager, started scrutinizing purchases in April.

I don't envy Ron who bears the brunt of the wrath from people when he says "no." He and others like **Dom Marasco**, senior inventory supervisor, do a great job holding down expenses. Dom keeps track of who ordered what and when to avoid overstocking at various facilities. With a 3% cut in our 2004 budget, Ron will be starting to monitor purchases as we go out the gate in January.

An addition to the Fiscal Division was **Kathe Utzig**, fiscal analyst, who I swear has worked 20 years in our Controller's Office. Like the Controller's employees she is

our watchdog and has saved the County thousands of dollars questioning invoices from numerous vendors, doing research on past invoices and not paying for services provided outside the contract specifications. I've listened to

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*"I have never heard anything except 'I don't want to go over budget this year.'"*

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her many times making phone calls demanding explanations of charges, getting credits for overcharges and refusing to pay questionable items. I told her she treats Public Works money like it's her own. Of course she would not be able to devote as much time on cost saving measures if it was not for **Mike Millner**, fiscal analyst. He is one of the hardest working persons I have ever had the fortune to have with me. Accuracy is another of Mike's qualities. In fact, a couple of months ago I jokingly said, "Mike that is the third mistake you've made in 10 years" and he replied indicating it was me that was wrong -- not him.

I mention a few names above who can directly impact the amount of expenses we encounter, but want to thank the best payroll department in the County with **Carla Bruno**, payroll manager, **Susan Leukhardt**, payroll specialist, and the recent addition of **Sue Hosack**, payroll specialist; and

MEANS (Continued on page 6)

reconstructing the softball fields at North Park.

**Roads**

The much anticipated Settlers Cabin Interchange was advertised by PennDOT in 2003. This \$40 million project is a partnership between Allegheny County, PennDOT, two Townships and private business interests that will provide for a new full interchange along the Parkway West. The County was responsible for completing the design and acquiring all necessary rights of way. It is scheduled to open to traffic in 2005.

Our annual paving program completed the resurfacing and/or reconstruction of over 40 miles of roads. The most significant roadwork was the completion of the reconstruction of Painters Run Road between Cedar Boulevard and Robb Hollow Road. This \$3 million project completely rebuilt and realigned the road, including two small bridges, and widened the cartway from two to four lanes. In the fall, emergency repairs were completed to Glen Mitchell Road, restoring a section of road that was closed by a landslide.

We will continue our paving program in 2004 by completing over 35 miles of roads this summer and, beginning this fall, start the reconstruction of the Babcock Boulevard at Three Degree Road intersection.

**Bridges**

The largest and most notable project was the 16th Street Bridge which reopened to traffic, on schedule, on September 15. The work

included structural repairs, historic renovations, new sidewalks, lighting and complete repainting. Working closely with PennDOT and the River-life Task Force, a nonprofit organization facilitating the development of Three Rivers Park along the three rivers in downtown Pittsburgh, we obtained approval to design and construct a new steel bridge safety parapet in lieu of the standard concrete barrier. This unique safety parapet maintains the view from the bridge. In addition, nine smaller bridges were replaced or repaired, allowing for the removal of weight limit postings and reopening of

these bridges to unrestricted traffic.

In 2004, we are looking forward to continuing with an aggressive capital improvement program. The \$30 million rehabilitation of the Homestead Grays Bridge should be advertised before the end of the year. At least three other small bridges will be replaced. In addition, we plan to begin design for the rehabilitation of the Mansfield Bridge and the design of at least three other smaller structures. ❖

*submitted by Don Killmeyer,  
director of engineering and  
construction*



**New Housing Construction  
at Deer Lakes**

As his Eagle Scout Project, Richard Murray, age 18, of Boy Scout Troop 390 in Natrona Heights, built fifteen birdhouses that were placed throughout Deer Lakes Park in August 2003. These exceptionally made birdhouses, constructed of wood and secured on iron posts, will provide housing to the sparrows and other birds that make Deer Lakes Park



One of fifteen birdhouses at Deer Lakes Park

their home year round. The project took Richard approximately two months to complete. Good job, Richard! ❖

*submitted by Harry Thompson,  
Deer Lakes Park manager*

## Two New Buildings Slated for Construction

The Department of Public Works has two major construction projects slated for 2004. The first is a new building located downtown on Ross and Fourth that will house the Department of Human Services and the Coroner's Forensic Laboratories. The second is a new laboratory building at the Health Department's Clack Campus located on Penn Avenue in the Lawrenceville/Bloomfield area of Pittsburgh.

The Human Services/Forensic Laboratory Building will be approximately 200,000 square feet consisting of eight stories above Fourth Avenue with two parking levels below. Six of the eight floors will accommodate the offices and a conference center for the Human Services Department. The Forensic Laboratories will be located on the top two floors.

Currently, the Human Services Department occupies rented space in three downtown buildings. The new structure will consolidate all the departments under one roof making daily operations and

communications more effective and productive.

The Forensic Laboratory is currently located in the basement of the County Office Building in a cramped, outdated environment. The new facility will contain state-



New Human Services/Coroners Forensic Laboratory Building

of-the-art laboratories and administrative offices that will benefit sensitive functions of the Department and at the same time provide security.

The new Laboratory Building located at the Health Department's Clack Campus located on Penn Avenue in the Lawrenceville/Bloomfield area of Pittsburgh is much smaller in

scale — 10,000 square feet — but no less complicated. The new building will join the seven other buildings located on the campus. Because of the historical environment of the campus and dictates placed on the Design

Team by the community and the city, the new building will have many architectural features that will visually tie it in with the other Clack Buildings.

The Laboratory Building will house all of the infectious disease clinics currently located at 3441 Forbes Street in Oakland. In addition, the Level 3 Bio-hazardous Laboratory and office space will be more secure.

Demolition of the Jail Annex is underway to clear the site for the Human Services/Coroners Forensic Laboratory Building. Construction will start later this year. Construction of the new Clack Center Laboratory Building is expected to begin in summer/fall of this year. ❖

*submitted by Samuel Taylor, R.A.*



New Clack Center Laboratory Building

# On the Road to Accreditation

The Allegheny County Department of Public Works is well on its way working towards accreditation with the American Public Works Association (APWA). **Tom Kelley** is serving as accreditation manager for the project. **Cathy Trexler**, project specialist, was brought on board to organize the Department's efforts throughout the process. The Steering Committee was formed, chaired by **Donald Berman**, P.E., consulting engineer and former Allegheny County public works director.

To become accredited, the Department must comply with over 500 best management practices as recommended by APWA. Task Force Committees will review each of the twenty-one applicable chapters to verify existing practices for compliance with APWA's recommended practices. If a practice does not exist or is found to be non-compliant, steps will be taken to bring it into compliance. The Steering Committee approves the work of the Task Force Committees and is responsible for making major decisions in the best interests of the accreditation project.

A draft of the Finance chapter, consisting of 19 practices, was submitted to other Public Works agencies for peer review. The agencies returned their comments and suggestions,



and the chapter will be finalized and submitted for approval by the Steering Committee.

The draft of the Risk Management chapter consisting of 8 practices was submitted nationwide to Public Works professionals for peer review. Task Force Committees are currently reviewing the 39 practices in the Human Resource Management chapter. Task Force Committees are being formed for the Communications chapter (18 practices) and

Information Technology and Telecommunications chapter (13 practices).

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/](http://info.county.allegheny.pa.us/departments/publicworks/) or on the Internet at [www.county.allegheny.pa.us/publicworks/](http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/publicworks/). ❖

*submitted by Cathy Trexler,  
project specialist*

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## Class for Allegheny County

Allegheny County is making exciting new changes in technology for 2004. A collaborative effort between the Public Works and the Parks Departments has resulted in a huge technology boost for the Parks.

The Department of Public Works Information Technology division is assisting the Parks Department in the training and implementation of the Parks Comprehensive Information System. Cutting edge IBM Point-of-Sale (POS) systems will change the way the parks do business by leaps and bounds.

The IBM POS system is very sleek, it saves space and boasts Touch Screen technology, credit card readers, digital cameras, barcode scanners, and ID card printers, not to mention standard cash drawers and receipt printers. The benefits of this new technology will more than satisfy the ever-increasing needs of our employees and visitors of the parks by improving customer services.

Class for Windows will be used with the POS, Facility Booking and Membership stations replacing the NOMAD system to redirect our resources

in a more positive direction and to reinforce our commitment to excellence. The Class system offers visitors to the parks greater convenience and time savings whether booking facilities or purchasing memberships. The Class system also benefits all of the Parks staff by centralizing the data from all Parks sites. This feature gives management the ability to gather detailed data on various dynamics of the park system.

Class Software Solutions, Ltd. Software consultant Jaspal Saraw trained personnel from each of the parks sites. Jaspal (Jas for short) alleviated training jitters and then emphasized high expectations with a combination of coaching, classroom instruction, audio visual tools, quick feedback and Starbucks.

We are committed to benchmarking the future of the parks with innovative changes to produce more manageable information and to protect and improve the accuracy and integrity of our processes for the residents and visitors of Allegheny County. ❖

*submitted by Serena Blackmon,  
IT Division*

MEANS (Continued from page 2)

Ron Doria 's support staff of **Art Crivaro**, assistant purchasing manager, **Audrey Gibbs**, purchasing assistant, and **Johnny McBriar**, invoice auditor. Let's not forget the hard working and accurate **Sandy Lang**, fiscal analyst, and last but not least our best part-time worker **Beth Cannon**, capital budget manager.

Another factor contributing to our ability to meet our budget was to identify materials used on capital projects that could be purchased from the capital funds. Formerly a lot of materials were taken from inventory purchased from the operating budget.

Cross-charging of wages and fringe benefits for work done on capital projects has helped us over the years. These are now correctly charged to capital projects and credited to the operating budget. We try to capture all such cross-

charges and have been able to increase the amounts each year.

Public Works has put an end to their past practice of

“*We are like an airplane that has been flying towards a mountain . . . but we made it!*”

doing free work for other County agencies and outside requests. We now charge for preparing and displaying banners at various locations, line striping for municipalities, requests for use of our equipment, installing computer cables, various renovations and other requests utilizing our personnel. In addition, **Joe Olczak**, deputy director of maintenance, makes sure none of our materials are used in renovations. He makes the requesting departments purchase the materials.

In 2002 we were granted permission to apply the revenues received for our services into a special account that we can use to subsidize our operating budget. For example in 2003 we purchased \$150,000 worth of rock salt from these various revenues we built up over the past year and a half which was a big factor in us meeting our budget.

Last year at this time I said, “Year after year vendors keep raising their prices, utilities keep going up, and we have to meet union-negotiated wage increases. We are like an airplane that has been flying towards a mountain.” I thought we were going to hit that mountain in 2003 but we made it! With a 3% across the board cut in our budget for 2004, we will need everyone's help — possibly a miracle — to keep the string going to meet our budget in 2004. ❖

*submitted by Don Mitsch,  
administration & operations  
manager*

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## County Employees Lend a Helping Hand on Day of Caring

Allegheny County employees pitched in to help with four United Way projects on the Day of Caring on September 10, 2003 -- the Braddock Carnegie Library Mural Project, the National Folk Festival Project at the Scott Township Kane Regional Center, the St. Vincent DePaul Society Project in Coraopolis, and the YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh Project in Homewood.

Employees assisted by painting a mural depicting the history of the Carnegie Library

in America's first Carnegie Library, setting up and decorating booths for Nationality Day at Kane, sorting and pricing donated clothing and household goods at the St. Vincent DePaul Society, and reading and playing games with the children at the YWCA day care center. Thanks to the following Public Works employees for giving up their time to support these worthy



efforts: **Carla Bruno, Audrey Gibbs, Shelly Harvey, Sandy Lang, Debra Lewis, Bonnie Martin, Tom Mettrick, Patty Starr and Fred Taylor.**

Day of Caring began in Pittsburgh in 1991. Since then, this “hands-on” event has spread to 200 cities nationwide and is catching on overseas as well. ❖

*submitted by Cathy Trexler,  
project specialist*

## United Way of Allegheny County Campaign Results

We're proud to report that Allegheny County employees contributed over \$70,000 to this year's United Way Campaign – and the final results are still being tallied!

Your gift helps the community by helping children and youth to succeed, improving access to quality health services for all citizens, providing quality senior support, helping people retain jobs and build job skills, helping people find affordable housing and making neighborhoods vibrant.

Contributing through UWAC helps the agencies by providing . . .

- the most efficient fund raising system for health and human services. UWAC saves agencies money—they don't need as many fund raising people.
- cost-effective pledge processing—including payroll deduction—that most agencies don't offer. This also helps lower their costs.
- responsible oversight of partner agencies—to ensure your money is invested in nonprofits that are well-run.
- one workplace solicitation—instead of multiple requests for money—making it easier on donors—and again saving agencies time and money.

Thanks for caring enough to make a difference! Your gifts help to improve our community's quality of life. ❖

*submitted by Cathy Trexler,  
project specialist*

## Saving Lives with CPR and AED

On September 29, 2003 in the fifth floor hallway of the County Office Building (COB), Public Works employee **John Aurila** experienced a cardiac arrest. Thanks to the quick actions of **Tom Kelley**, deputy director of administration and operations, **Steve Hrvoich**, construction engineering manager, and **Ron Doria**, purchasing manager, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was administered after it was determined that John was not breathing and had no signs of a pulse.

Minutes later, Allegheny County building guards arrived and utilized the automated



external defibrillator (AED) located on the fifth floor of the COB. The purpose of this device is to deliver an electric current “shock” to the heart to stop abnormal electric activity. This allows the heart to resume normal function. The AED device evaluates the patient's heart rhythm, generates and delivers an electric charge, and reevaluates the heart rhythm. CPR makes defibrillation more effective by helping to maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain.

The combination of CPR and application of the AED was enough to sustain John's life until skilled EMS workers

CPR/AED (Continued on page 8)

## Get to Know About Safety

### The Public Works Safety and Health Committee

New employees and even some veterans may not be aware that Public Works has a standing Safety and Health Committee that meets on a quarterly basis. The purpose of this Committee, as stated in all of our current labor agreements, is to “investigate and make recommendations regarding work, environmental and safety issues.”

Current members of the Committee are **Mark Aul**, District 1; **Dan Casserly**, Settlers Cabin; **Jodie DeLia**, County Safety Officer; **Mark O'Brien**, Stationary Engineers; **Gene Pieszak**, Public Works Safety Coordinator; **Mark Smrdel**, Equipment Shop; **Nick Solic**,

Department of Health; **Rick Stotler**, District 4; and **Bill Wokutch**, District 1.

Committee members are available to speak with fellow employees about safety concerns, ideas and recommendations. Current work practices that may lead to accidents or injuries to themselves, fellow workers, or the public should be brought to the Committee's attention. The Committee then discusses these topics at its meetings and subsequently presents the issues and recommendations to the Public Works Director for his review and response.

### Reporting Unsafe Conditions

Do not forget to report unsafe conditions! If an

SAFETY (Continued on page 8)

**CPR/AED** (Continued from page 7) arrived and John was transferred to advanced care. John was subsequently admitted to Mercy Hospital where he underwent coronary bypass surgery on October 3. He was later discharged, but because of the residuals from the event, John will not be returning to work.

As a result of John's cardiac arrest, there has been renewed interest within the Department of Public Works to obtain CPR certification and to learn the function and proper use of the AED. So on January 9, 2004, **Diane Beatty, Beth Butler, and Judith Heilmann** of the Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services conducted the Heartsaver AED Course to teach basic CPR techniques and how to use an AED. Those participating in

the four-hour course were Public Works employees **Bill Bottorff, Bill Connery, Audrey Gibbs, Don Killmeyer, Gene Pieszak, Steve Smallhoover, Linda Stahl** and **Kathi Utzig**, and Parks employees **Denise Schreiber** and **Denise Shilling**.

During our annual ski slope safety training for laborers seasonally assigned to Boyce Park Ski Slopes, all 15 employees volunteered to participate in the Heartsaver AED Course conducted by **Pat Boccardi** of the Boyce Park Ski Patrol. Successful participants were **Mark Brestensky, Larry Camerota, Earl Deedler, Joe Heglas, Richard Knee, Frank Maglicco, David Olivo, Warren Schenk, Howard Sorg, Jim Toth,**

**Sam Toth, Alan Vozel, John Ward, Paul Yount** and **Craig Zinsser**.

AEDs are currently located on the basement, first and fifth floors of the COB. Additional units are located at the Four Seasons Lodge at Boyce Park, and at the Golf Course and the Skating Rink at North Park.

Should the need arise, or interest be expressed by additional Public Works employees, the Heartsaver AED Course can be arranged with the excellent trainers available through Emergency Services. If you have an interest in participating in such a program and obtaining certification in CPR, please notify **Gene Pieszak** at 412-350-2505. ❖

*submitted by Gene Pieszak,  
safety coordinator*

**SAFETY** (Continued from page 7) employee notices an unsafe condition in his or her work area, that employee is required to report the information immediately to his or her supervisor using the Employee Report of Unsafe Condition Form. Once the condition is reported, the supervisor must take the necessary corrective action and report the outcome to the Public Works Safety Coordinator.

### **Employee Safety Suggestion Program**

Use the Employee Safety and Health Suggestion Form to submit a safety suggestion to any member of the Safety and Health Committee. After reviewing these suggestions during the Safety and Health Committee meetings, the Committee will submit a recommendation to the Director and provide further feedback to employees.

As an incentive, Director **Tom Donatelli** recently approved awarding a \$25.00 lunch certificate on a quarterly basis. The certificate will be awarded to an employee who the Committee recommends for having the best safety suggestion or to someone nominated by a coworker or supervisor for exhibiting safe work practices on a daily basis.

You can obtain an Employee Report of Unsafe Condition Form and the Employee Safety and Health Suggestion Form from your supervisor or from your Employee Safety Manual. You may also find the Employee Safety Manual on the Public Works Intranet at <http://info.county.allegheny.pa.us/departments/publicworks/>. ❖

*submitted by Gene Pieszak,  
safety coordinator*

## **Public Works Is on the Web**

The Department of Public Works is on the Allegheny County Internet site at **[www.county.allegheny.pa.us/publicworks/](http://www.county.allegheny.pa.us/publicworks/)** and at the Intranet site at **[info.county.allegheny.pa.us/departments/publicworks/](http://info.county.allegheny.pa.us/departments/publicworks/)**. ❖



## My Experience as a Summer Intern

Nothing quite defines the month of May like the time of year when college students everywhere begin their summer job searches. My search would be especially difficult since I skipped my senior year of high school to attend the University of Pittsburgh and completed only one year of courses. I would have to attend my high school commencement ceremony to receive my diploma with the rest of the Class of 2003, and that would not be until June 12! Was it possible to obtain an engineering internship without a high school diploma?

My worries turned to thrills when I received a call from **Tom Vena**, my soon-to-be manager, who offered me an internship in the Engineering & Construction Division's Bridge Section of the Allegheny County Department of Public Works. My start date was May 5, 2003.

I eagerly boarded my bus for my first day. Miraculously, I made it through the rocky ride and found my way off of the bus and over to Ross & Forbes where the County Office Building is located. At last, I made it!

When I stepped into the elevator, it seemed to sense a newcomer as it refused to shut its door. Later I learned that it was normal behavior for the elevator. A few individuals joined me, including **Steve Shanley** with whom I would be working. When the door opened on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, we both stepped out, Steve heading to clock in and me to find Tom. I found him in the Bridge Section, where he showed me my very first office, 511D, and introduced me to **Ron Walker**. It was the beginning of a 14-week internship.

One of my projects was to create a bridge inspection cycle for bridges less than 20 feet long,

Allegheny County has about 350 of these bridges that need to be maintained and inspected every two to three years. Based upon their regional locations and most recent inspection dates I divided the bridges into eight groups that in turn make up three larger groups. These larger groups will be inspected over a three-year course. The cycle repeats itself, and as a result, maintains safety for the bridges and gives an even workload to our consultants each year. I am very proud that my project has already been implemented by integrating this year's groups into our current inspection contracts. The bridge inspection cycle will eliminate the tedious process of researching which bridges are due for inspection.

In addition to gaining engineering experience, I had many memorable moments, including the many paper cuts I endured from the bridge files. I will always know the County's code for Catfish Run Bridge #4 (CT04!) because it is permanently engrained into my brain. I will remember forgetting to clock out at the end of the day or how to run four and a half blocks in four minutes to get to my bus stop in time to catch my bus. I will treasure the memory of the smell of incense coming from the Special Events corridor. But most importantly, I will remember how much the County does for the residents of Allegheny County.

Thanks to all of you who have been a part of my work experience: the ladies at the County Office Building Deli Stand for making my wheat toast

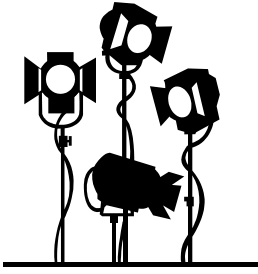
with strawberry jelly every morning; **Harriet Morris** for sweeping up my messy office floor; **Steve Small Hoover** for passing along music CDs to make the workday go faster; **Ed Horm** for cheering up the day with his Carnegie Museum's *DinoMite Days* dinosaur photo collection; **Audrey Gibbs** for being there when I needed office supplies, a friendly conversation or a good laugh; **Sylvia Easler** for informing me of tours and the history of various sites; **Bill Connery** and **Joe Michalski** for helping me search for missing bridge information and feeding me an occasional muffin; **Bill Botorff** for his bright "Hello!" that started off my mornings; **Bill Orfeo** for giving great advice; and **Denise (Munshower) Shilling** whose good chats worked better than Tylenol for my headaches! I maintain my statement that **Larry Kuzmanko's** goal was to see how many pounds he could pack on me by the end of my internship! And thank you to our Director, **Tom Donatelli**, for the delicious bagels on pay days! It was a pleasure to meet the other interns on our floor, **Heather Smithco** and **Kaite Ross**, and to have lunch together.

I was certainly lucky to have had the privilege to work with such a wonderful group of people whom I now call my friends. Each of you has been a wonderful part of my experience. ❖

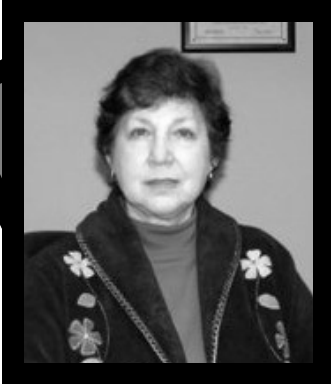
*submitted by Stephanie Page,  
engineering intern*



Stephanie Page, Intern



# In the Spotlight



**Name:** Audrey Gibbs

**Job Title, Location:** Purchasing Assistant, County Office Building

**Primary Job Function:** Aid and assist the purchasing unit with the day-to-day purchasing functions, manage the operation of the department storeroom which includes ordering, inventorying and distributing all office supplies

**Favorite Part of My Job:** Working with my coworkers, having my own office and working independently

**Years of Service:** 25 years

**Family:** Children, Kenn, Joyce and Steve; Grandchildren, Michael, Mark, Ashley, Sara, Robbie and Andy

**Hobbies/Interests:** Crafts, crocheting

**Pet Peeve:** Elevators that are not working

**My Best Character Trait:** Honest and trustworthy

**One of My Most Unusual Experiences:** As a teenager, I attended a teen center where a young talented duo named "Tom and Jerry" sang "Hey Schoolgirl" and passed out autographed pictures — today they are known as "Simon and Garfunkel"



**Name:** Marty Demblowski

**Job Title, Location:** Project Manager 2, County Office Building

**Primary Job Function:** Technical and training support for Stantec Work Management Application

**Favorite Part of My Job:** Solving application questions and training

**Years of Service:** 1 ½ years

**Family:** Wife Beth, Ryan 9 and Sarah 7

**Hobbies/Interests:** Home improvement projects

**Pet Peeve:** The Pittsburgh left

**My Best Character Trait:** Confident and self-motivated

**What Would Surprise People About Me:** I'm a twin

# On the Move



## New Employees:

**Joe Argenas**, Laborer, District 2  
**Jim Carragher**, Laborer, Traffic  
**Gary Crooks**, Laborer, District 2  
**Ralph Davis**, Laborer, District 3  
**Mike Gillespie**, Painter, Paint Shop  
**Brian Heidkamp**, Laborer, South Park Greenhouse  
**Randy Schmidt**, Laborer, Round Hill  
**Scott Spangler**, Laborer, District 3

## Retirements:

**Joe Boyer**, Laborer, District 1  
**John Skanderson**, Contracts & Procurement Manager,  
County Office Building

## Resignations:

**Angela Spynda**, Assistant Payroll Manager, County Office  
Building

## Military Leave:

**Charles Berie**, Laborer, North Park

## Service of 30 or More Years:

**John Aurila**, Laborer, County Office Building  
**Richard Benna**, Laborer, North Park  
**Steve Bruno**, Laborer, District 7  
**Barry Bristow**, Stationary Engineer, North Park  
**John Burns**, Carpenter, South Park Maintenance  
**Lou Carnevale**, Laborer, District 3  
**Donald Casey, Jr.**, Laborer, Carpenter Shop  
**William Cooke**, Stationary Engineer, North Park  
**Art Crivaro**, Assistant Purchasing Manager, County Office  
Building  
**Dana Davis**, Driver, District 1  
**James DelPercio**, Laborer, South Park

**Ray Ferraro**, Laborer, North Park  
**Ron Flynn**, Storekeeper,  
North Park  
**Mark Ford**, Driver,  
North Park  
**Gilbert Frazier**, Laborer, District 7  
**Bob Gerstberger**, Carpenter, North Park Maintenance  
**Larry Gilbert**, Driver, District 4  
**Jack Hancock**, Stationary Engineer, Stationary Engineer  
Shop  
**Ed Horm**, Senior Draftsman, County Office Building  
**Mike Kanai**, Stationary Engineer, Downtown  
**George Kavchak**, Driver, District 1  
**John Kaylor**, Driver, District 2  
**Bob King**, Clerk 3, Heavy Equipment  
**Richard Knee**, Laborer, White Oak Park  
**John Lofink**, Painter Foreman, North Park  
**Denny Lynn**, Plumber Supervisor, Courthouse  
**Dave Macsurak**, Labor Foreman, South Park  
**Tim Mahoney**, Driver, District 2  
**Richard Matassa**, Laborer, District 3  
**Joe Michalski**, Senior Materials Test Specialist, County  
Office Building  
**Richard Montuoro**, Driver, South Park  
**Ray Mussill**, Permits Inspector, County Office Building  
**Nicholas Obradovich**, Carpenter, Courthouse  
**Tony Russo**, Driver, Traffic  
**Wallace Simpson**, Auto Serviceman, South Side Garage  
**David Snatchko**, Laborer, Settlers Cabin  
**Tom Spartis**, Laborer, South Park  
**Rege Speck**, Transitman, County Office Building  
**Ron Speer**, Laborer, South Park  
**Angelo Trapani**, Laborer, District 7  
**Roger Tucibat**, Laborer, District 3  
**Bill Volkman**, Greenskeeper, North Park  
**Glenn Winterhalter**, Project Manager 1, County Office  
Building



## Wishing You Well

**Angela Spynda**

**John Aurila**

**John Skanderson**

Thank you for your years of service to the  
Department of Public Works and the citizens  
of Allegheny County.



## From the Mailbag

Dear Mr. Donatelli:

I am writing this letter to inform you of the excellent service the locksmiths **Carl Hunkele** and **Les Petrosky** have provided to our office.

They are helpful and accommodating when an emergency arises to unlock file cabinets and drawers to the breakdown of our numbered keypad to access our security door. They also provide first-rate service when a key is required.

On behalf of the staff of the Office of the Public Defender, again I want to offer my thanks for Carl and Les' friendly assistance and quality work.

*Sincerely,*

*Barbara D. Whitmer  
Administrative Officer  
Office of the Public Defender*



Dear Mr. Donatelli:

I would like to take this moment to let you know that my husband and I appreciate and enjoy the time that we spend in South Park every morning. I think that the County workers have really done a nice job with the up-keep of the grounds. The flowers were exceptionally beautiful this year. The workers should be commended for their efforts in maintaining the park so well.

We spoke with the Park Supervisor, **Rich Daniels**, and commended him for a job well done. I am glad to hear that the water problem on the trail pathway will be fixed in the near future. We also asked him if he would put several

benches up there for the public to enjoy the scenery. He was very courteous and helpful.

*Sincerely,*

*Elizabeth H. Parise  
Jefferson Hills*



Dear Joe (Olczak):

I just wanted to let you know that **George Thompson** and **Jim Stawecki** did a fantastic job in December picking up and delivering the thousands of holiday gifts for the children served by the Allegheny County Office of Children, Youth and Families!

Both George and Jim kept in constant contact with me about the status of the deliveries and when any changes in scheduling occurred. They were very personable and professional, and I enjoyed working with both George and Jim. You should be proud of your staff.

In fact, this year Public Works made gift deliveries of some 1,827 children! That means that Public Works' vehicles transported approximately 7,300 gifts during the 2003 holiday season! So you see, if it were not for the Department of Public Works, we would STILL be delivering gifts today!

Public Works has played an integral part over the last several years in helping the DHS Holiday Project for Children expand into the size that it is today.

Once again, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We appreciate and value your services very much.

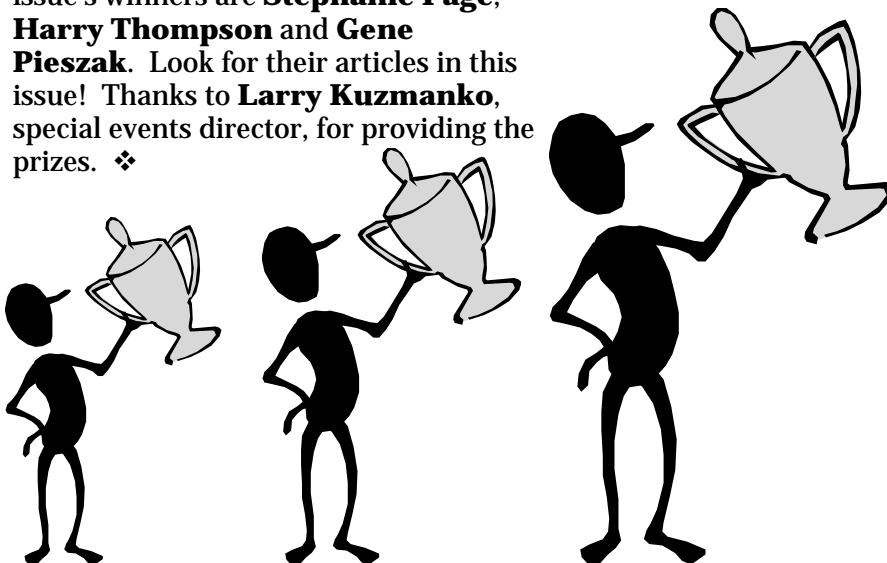
*Best regards,*

*Gail Heid Collier  
Community Relations Specialist/Event Planner  
Department of Human Services*



## Eyes on the Prize

Each issue, the first three employees who voluntarily submit an article that is published in *In the Works* receives a prize. This issue's winners are **Stephanie Page**, **Harry Thompson** and **Gene Pieszak**. Look for their articles in this issue! Thanks to **Larry Kuzmanko**, special events director, for providing the prizes. ❖



*In the Works* is published for the employees of the Allegheny County Department of Public Works. It is published with their views and thoughts in mind. News items and story ideas are welcome.

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