



# Public News For Public Works

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## MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR

Dear fellow public servants,

With the recent passing of Nelson Mandela I thought it would be appropriate to share his thoughts:

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can only rest for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not ended." Nelson Mandela.

We have come a long way, from the corruption of the past politicians, to the successes of what we have accomplished this year. Many times it was an uphill climb. Obviously harder, but the view is much better from the top. Our walks have sometimes turned into sprints. But, hard work shows our character: some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses, and some don't turn up at all. The Public Work's team has proven that we can accomplish anything.

By rolling up our sleeves we have:

- Moved 400 employees to buildings that needed rehabilitation and then cleaned up what was left behind.
- Completed the Convention Center and Global Center for Health Innovation ahead of schedule and under budget.
- Developed a RFP that allows us to purchase equipment that takes both the user's needs and cost into consideration
- Sold our Ameritrust complex and started the design and construction of our new Administration Building.
- Completed the bridge load rating of all our county structures.
- Increased our dog adoption and transfer rate by 5%.

Woodrow Wilson said "We are not here merely to make a living. We are here to enrich the world with a finer spirit of hope and achievement and we impoverish ourselves if we forget the errand." How we live our life is important. We realize this with the loss of two of our coworker, Rob Lemons and Maarafu Ojo "Z". I wish those who knew them have the strength to remember how they were a positive part of our lives. We should appreciate what we have and be thankful and don't waste it on negativity.

Our walk has not ended. As we look to the New Year we should remember what John F. Kennedy said about landing on the moon. "The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were." The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy. Though we have accomplished much, we still have many hills to climb. We can alter our lives by altering our attitudes. As you think, so shall you be. Do at least one thing every day that makes the world a better place. Hold the door for someone. Smile at a stranger. Make someone laugh. Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change. To help you grow, do one thing every day that scares you.

To all who have rolled up your sleeves to make this a successful year, to those who have given the little extra, to the dreamers, to those who smiled or laughed and made the world a little better, to those who scared themselves and tried something new, my sincere thank you,

Happy Holiday from my family to yours,

Bonnie

## CHARITY CHOICE CAMPAIGN

Thank you, to all Department of Public Works employees, that donated to the Charity Choice Campaign. Once again this year's campaign ran concurrent with employees online benefits open enrollment (through MyHR website), November 1st through December 13th. This year's Charity Choices consisted of 5 federations representing 318 charities. The DPW raised a total of **\$9,473.75!** With the help of your campaign coordinators; **Tamala DiFilippo, Stonebridge & Bridge Garage she raised \$149.00, Lori Margenin, and Jackie Smith, from 1642 Lakeside raised \$105.00, Amy Murray, working at the Justice Center, raised \$65.00, Carolynn Ragan, represented the Juvenile Justice Center where she was able to raise \$72.75, Wendy Clark along with Jessica Jadrych from the Valley View Facility, raised \$347.00 and Darla Markham from the Brookpark Fac-**

**ity, raised \$65.00, which was donated to the Diabetes Foundation.** A total of **\$803.75** was raised beating last years total of \$315!!! Campaign coordinators with help from staff members held, bake sales, hot dog and pizza luncheons along with selling raffle tickets for a chance to win one of 3, \$50 gift cards to Friday's Restaurant and to participate in dress down days along with a chance to win a prime parking spot for the week, at Stonebridge . The Department of Public Works donated **\$246.25** to each of the following charities listed under the Community Health Charities of Ohio.

**St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.** Unlike any other pediatric treatment and research facility. Discoveries made here have completely changed how the world treats children with cancer and other catastrophic illnesses.



### Flying Horse Farms.

For a week at a time, being sick can take a back seat to being a kid. The mission of Flying Horse Farms is to enrich the lives of children with serious illnesses and their families. Located just outside of Mt. Gilead, Ohio, this camps 200 wooded acres, hosts hundred of children and families each year-free of charge.



### A Kid Again.

A non-profit that organizes year-round events like a day at Cedar Point or attending a Cleveland Indians game, allowing children to "feel like a kid again," and giving illness a giant timeout! This organization strives to give hope, happiness, and healing to families with a child with life threatening illnesses.

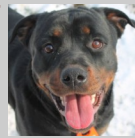
*Once again, thank you to all who have been so generous this year.*

## Good News!!

Great Job!!!! Goes out to **Mindy Naticchione, Kennel Manager** and her staff at the County Animal Shelter; Sandy Smith would like to express appreciation for the “can-do” attitude that staff have all brought to the shelter. The dogs potentially could have sat in cages miserable, sick and shivering with no baths, or grooming for weeks. Instead, the dogs are all cared for and handled gently. The staff at the kennel are making a huge difference!!!

It's a New Year with new beginnings! How about

starting it off with a friend from the County Animal Shelter? Visit the shelter and find that special dog. The shelter has many great dogs to match your personality! The \$90 adoption fee includes the first set of combo vaccines, bordetella vaccine, de-worming, heartworm test (adult), one year rabies vaccine, spay or neuter surgery and the mandatory county license. Speaking of dog license, you can purchase yours at the shelter. You also may purchase the licenses at any of the satel-



lite offices and online at [www.cuyahogadogs.com](http://www.cuyahogadogs.com).

Meet “Annabelle,” she's a 2 1/2 year old Rottweiler. Annabelle is a sweet and affectionate dog, she is very friendly towards people and other animals.

She would make an excellent addition to any family!

The annual DPW Holiday Party was held on December 13th at the Bridge Garage. It was a great opportunity to gather with co-workers, as well as a chance to meet new people. There was plenty of good food and fellowship

throughout. The corn hold competition was alive and well again this year.

The team of **Mike Chambers** and **Tom Chambers** walked away with first place as well as **Mike Dever** and **Arti Roberts** taking second. Thank you, to **Tamala DiFilippo, Koula Celebrezze** and **Scot Davis** along with his staff for helping organize and assemble the holiday party.

*Wishing everyone happiness, health and prosperity in 2014.*



## SAFETY...

While enjoying the season most of us are not affected by holiday accidents or tragedies. Here are a few suggestions to keep your holiday and the new year safe: **Extension Cord Safety:** Do not plug an extension cord into an extension cord, for multiple cords use a fused power strip, do not fold, staple or damage the cord. **Candle Safety:** Candles should be

on or in a sturdy nonflammable container that is large enough to collect dripping wax. Candles should be extinguished before you leave or go to sleep. Keep all candles away from kids and pets, they don't mix. **Chimneys/Fireplace Safety:** Have your chimney checked each year, use only seasoned hardwood. Install a carbon monoxide detec-

tor, keep all combustibles at least 3 feet away, and never use flammable liquids, like gasoline, kerosene or lantern fuel to start a fire. **Smoke Alarm Safety:** Install smoke alarms on every level of your home also install a new battery immediately if the alarm begins to “chirp.” Buy special alarms for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Re-

place your smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. Just remember to keep safety in mind to assure your family has a healthy and happy New Year!!



# Department of Public Works

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## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

**Lori Birschbach-Tober**, is a new addition to the DPW team, she has been a Senior Project Manager since October. Lori previously worked for K.E. McCartney & Associates in Elyria as a Project Engineer, doing design work. Currently, Lori is working on the Environmental Asset Study be-

ing done on the runway improvement at the County Airport. Lori enjoys her new position, and says the people she is working with are very friendly and welcoming. When Lori is away from the office, her favorite hobbies are crocheting, knitting as well as working with various kinds of beads

to create jewelry. In addition to crafting, Lori and her husband like to experiment with cook-



ing international cuisine, one of their favorite cui-

sine is cooking German food, she and her husband have plenty of knowledge in that area. They are the proud parents of two sons, their eldest is a graduate of Ohio University and their youngest is a freshman at Ohio State University, studying Chemical Engineering.

## Human Resource Corner

**Health Care Cost Savings:** Save on your 2014 Health Care costs by signing up for Vitality. Complete your 2014 Vitality registration and Vitality Health Review. If you have completed a Health Risk Assessment in 2013, you **MUST**



register and complete a 2014 Vitality Health Review to initiate your savings. Just go to,

[www.powerofvitality.com](http://www.powerofvitality.com) to register and complete your Vitality Health Review and discover all the wonderful opportunities they have to offer. Reap the benefits of healthy living when you participate in Vitality! Increase energy and productivity, maintain a healthy weight, feeling great and

reducing your risk of chronic disease are just a few of the benefits of participating in the program. It get's better, you will also earn Vitality Points which will help you increase your Vitality Status.



# January Birthdays!!!



1/2	Andrea Johnson	1/12	Patrick Kearney
1/2	Michael Joyce	1/15	Gerard Novario
1/3	Steven C. Kotnik	1/20	Leslie A. Jech
1/5	Manny Saridakis	1/22	Nicholas A. Sartain
1/5	Edward V. Premen	1/23	Donna Csikos
1/6	Anthony Ditz	1/23	Jermaine C. Pickens
1/7	Karim Essey	1/26	Vinko Brezo
1/10	Walter Jablonowski	1/26	Michael Jecker
1/10	Terrence Minch	1/27	Mark R. Rinderman
1/11	Brian Leahy	1/28	Patrick M. Murphy
1/11	Thomas Roche, Jr.	1/30	Koula Celebrezze
1/11	Brian Keating	1/30	Donald Osborne
1/11	Kevin Adams	1/31	Tamala DiFilippo
1/12	Kevin Fridrich		
1/12	Joseph Gonzalez		