

# Water Power

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of the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department

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SUMMER 2007

## Restoring DWSD's past

by Michael Daisy  
Public Affairs

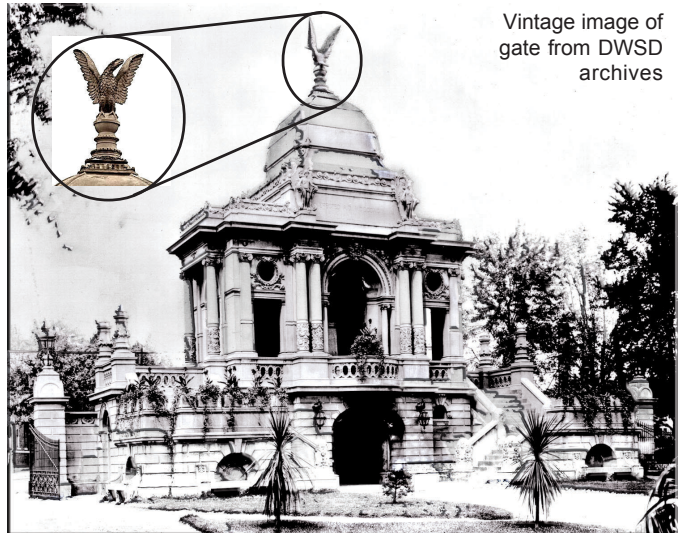
The Hurlbut Memorial Gate has been the public face of DWSD's Waterworks Park since 1894, when Detroit was known as the Paris of the Midwest and the park was a popular destination for tourists from around the world. The memorial is expected to be restored to its original glory by the end of September when restoration efforts currently in progress are expected to be complete.

Chauncy Hurlbut, the memorial's namesake, was a member of the Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) from 1861-63, and 1868-85. He served as BOWC president for most of his second term and presided over the acquisition of the park's original 56 acres. The park, currently 110 acres, has been a continuous source of high-quality drinking water for Detroit since 1877.



A crew works on restoring the 103 year-old Hurlbut Gate.

Photo by Paul Gomez, Public Affairs



Vintage image of gate from DWSD archives

On his death in 1885, Hurlbut bequeathed most of his estimated \$250,000 estate for beautification and maintenance of the park.

The Memorial Gate actually served as a grand entrance to the park when it was open to the public. It is classified as Beaux Arts, an architectural

style popular in Victorian times. It measures 132-feet wide by 40-feet deep by 50-feet high, and cost \$30,000 to build (equivalent to more than \$650,000 today).

Sadly, the cast iron gate, through which park visitors once leisurely strolled on their way to band concerts and

picnics, is now locked for security reasons. Two working water fountains in the shape of lions' heads were, at one time situated at either end of the structure. Twin staircases lead to a second level 12 feet above the ground. A stone eagle proudly sits on top of the dome, which rests on columns. A bronze bust of Chauncy Hurlbut sat on an Aberdeen granite pedestal beneath the dome until 1975, when it was stolen by vandals.

### Upper Rouge Tunnel Project

by Michael Daisy  
Public Affairs

DWSD's Upper Rouge Tunnel Project is receiving honors for excellence even before construction begins. The Department received two awards during the 26<sup>th</sup>

Annual Renaissance Awards presentation in June in the "Community Relations" and "Direct Mail/Direct Response" categories.

The Renaissance Awards recognize best practices in communication management, marketing, public relations, writing and art, and design. The Awards are sponsored by the Detroit chapter of the 14,000 member International Association of Business Communicators.

Construction is scheduled to begin in 2008 on the \$500 million Upper Rouge Tunnel Project and take six to seven years to complete. The seven-mile-long tunnel will run on a course roughly parallel to the Rouge River. It will divert heavy storm flow away from the River to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Tunnel is expected to reduce the number of annual Combined Sewer Overflow events to the Rouge to one from 55.

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## 10-N-30 Club winners

by Louise Bannerman  
Public Affairs

Once the smoke cleared after the final weigh out in March, there were 12 winners out of the 26 who weighed in for the spring 2007 edition of the 10-N-30 Club. The lucky 12 were:

Louise Bannerman (WBB)  
Nancy Dorsey (WBB)  
D'Andre Ford (FE)  
David Hensley (WBB)

Marilyn King (WBB)  
Tracey Mack (JMB)  
Cheryl Ramcharan (WWTP)  
Rebecca Scruggs (FE)  
Dan Smigels (CSF)  
Tina Sumner (WBB)  
Jewell White (WBB)  
Michelle Wright-Bailey (WBB)

The 10-N-30 Club is a twice-yearly (spring and fall) tradition at DWSD. Entrants pay \$10 into the pot to weigh in. If they lose 10 or more



pounds by the time of their final weigh-out 30 days later, they split the pot with the other winners. The size of shares depends on the number of winners. Winners hope to take out more than they put in.

## Recognizing Veterans

There is a very real DWSD connection to Iraq in the form of co-workers and the children of our co-workers. That's why we thought it would be a good idea to recognize the members of our DWSD family who are honorably serving (or have served) our country.

If you served (in Desert Storm or Iraqi Freedom), have family members who served, or know co-workers who did, let us know about it. We will add the names to a list of those being



recognized for serving their country. The list will be published in a future *Water Power*, hopefully the fall 2007 edition.

We currently have a few names, but want to do something more complete. This is strictly non-political. We are honoring individuals. We need names, photo if available, branch of service, current job title (or family connection), and seniority date – DWSD as well as city if applicable.

## River update

The Black Lagoon is no more. In June, the infamous, polluted corner of the Detroit River in Trenton was renamed Ellias Cove, for Howard Ellias, whose family donated the land for the adjoining Meyer-Ellias Park.

The cove's former disparaging moniker came from the color of the oil released into the

Detroit River there. For many years, it served as a convenient dumping ground for McLouth Steel, located just upstream. While the plant was closed in 1995, a nine-foot-thick layer containing approximately 30,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment remained.

Sediment removal will cost an estimated \$9.3 million.

## Quotable

**"He who  
angers you  
conquers you."**

– Elizabeth Kenny

**"Don't look  
where you fall,  
but where you  
slipped."**

– African proverb



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Detroit Water & Sewerage Department

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Water Board Building  
735 Randolph, Suite 1001  
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phone: (313) 964-9570  
fax: (313) 964-9580

## Audiovisual section wins top award

by Betsy Spratt  
Public Affairs

The Audiovisual section of the Public Affairs Division recently received three Communicator Awards for outstanding work in the communications field. Two of the three were Awards of Excellence – for cinematography and information – for coverage of the Detroit International Auto Show. The third was an Award of Distinction for the “Mayor’s Time” segment that aired on DWSD’s “Division Spotlight” on Detroit Cable TV channel 10.



Photo by Paul Comez, Public Affairs

The 2006 ceremony was the 13<sup>th</sup> annual presentation of the Awards. It was the fourth year that DWSD has participated in the event, and marked the first

time DWSD has garnered the event’s top honor, the Award of Excellence.

The Communicator Awards is

an international competition that recognizes outstanding work in the communications fields for audio, video, and print media. The Award of Excellence is presented to professionals who are the best in their field. The Award of Distinction recognizes projects that exceed industry standards. Honorable Mentions are given to entrants who meet the high standards of the industry.

As winners of the Communicator Awards, the Audiovisual section joins an exclusive list of video professionals recognized as the best in the industry.

## New masters at DWSD

by Suzanne Stapleton  
Commercial Operations

**Carolyn Barnett, Customer Service Representative I of DWSD’s Customer Phone Center**, earned a Masters of Business Administration and Entrepreneurial Management Degree from Davenport University in December. She is pictured with **Leslie Gaffney, Customer Service Representative I**, who also graduated in December with a Masters

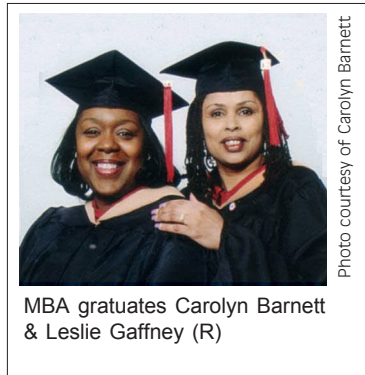


Photo courtesy of Carolyn Barnett

MBA graduates Carolyn Barnett & Leslie Gaffney (R)

Degree in Strategic Management.

The two new graduates invited their coworkers to a belated celebration of their achievement because, “their support was instrumental in helping us reach this goal,” said Barnett. Singled out for special mention were fellow Customer Service Representatives Alicia Smith, Michelle Walker, Annette Keith, Tina Regan, Patricia Bowerman-Jackson, and Annie Kuykendall.

Neither Barnett, nor Gaffney plan to use this noteworthy accomplishment as an excuse to rest on their laurels, especially Barnett. Carolyn continues to be deeply committed to her work at Greater Apostolic Faith Temple in Detroit, where she has been appointed to the board of Directors. Barnett also serves on the Executive Board of Ministerial Alliance with the title of “Evangelist.”

## She's out of here!



by Suzanne Stapleton  
Commercial Operations

**Janet Romeo, Customer Service Representative II**, is flanked by some of her co-workers on June 1, her last day on the job in DWSD’s Customer Service section. Left-to-right: Annie Kuykendall, Carolyn Barnett, Janet Romeo, Anjanette Myers, and Leslie Gaffney. Friends and coworkers gathered to say goodbye and celebrate Romeo’s 19 years of faithful service with a lot of laughter and a few tears. Jan is looking forward to spending a lot of her newfound leisure time with her family, which includes four sons and eight grandchildren!

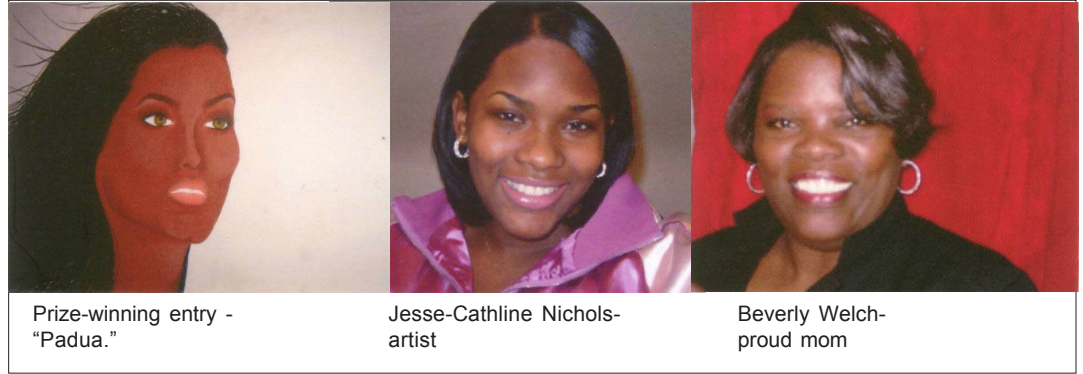
## Third Annual Detroit National Arts Program

by Suzanne Stapleton  
Commercial Operations

This year marked the third annual collaboration of the National Arts Program (NAP) and the Detroit Recreation Department to give city employees and their families the opportunity to display their art and compete for prizes. The NAP was created in 1983 to give aspiring artists a venue to display their works professionally.

Prize winners were honored at an awards banquet at the Scarab Club in late April. The works (more than 50 of them) were then displayed at the Skillman Branch of the Detroit Public Library throughout May.

Entries by DWSD employees and family members included an Honorable Mention to Kenneth Keith II for two drawings entered in the Amateur Youth division. Kenneth, 11, is a sixth grader at University Preparatory Academy. His proud mother is



Prize-winning entry - "Padua."

Jesse-Cathline Nichols-artist

Beverly Welch-proud mom

**Commercial Division's Tammy Keith.**

**Account Management's Beverly Welch** is another proud mom. Her daughter – Jesse-Cathline Nichols, who begins her senior year at Cass Technical High School this fall – won First Place in the Youth Division and \$100 for her drawing "Padua." She plans to study fashion design in New York. Her painting, "A Woman's Delight," was featured at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Detroit Public Schools Student Exhibition at The Detroit Institute of Arts earlier this year.

Welch had an entry of her own, "St. Thomas," a photographic image of the island taken during a Caribbean cruise in 2005.

**Kay Francis Moore, of Commercial Division's Collection's Unit**, won Second Place and \$200 in the Professional Artists category for her photograph, "Givemy in April." She spent 10 years at the Detroit Institute of Arts before coming to DWSD. Moore earned her Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Wayne State in 1986, and is disciplined in drawing, painting, sculpture and photography. Several of

her works have won prizes in local exhibitions.

Maria Hensley's "El Corazon" and Andres Hensley's "Totem Pole Guy" were also featured. Maria and Andres are the wife and son of **David Hensley, Plant Maintenance Subforman at the Water Board Building.**



## Big Apple performance

by Michael Daisy  
Public Affairs

Shaunte' Brown took a bite out of the Big Apple in May when the "Achiever Ladies Ensemble" performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City. The Ensemble is a choral group made up of students from the Detroit School of Arts High School (DSA) where she is a Junior.

Shaunte' (who is shown isolated from the other members of her Ensemble) was part of the group shot above, which was captured outside Carnegie Hall on the day of the performance.

Her mother, **Deborah Palmer, is a Senior Data Processing Telecommunication Technician in the Information Systems Network Group at Wastewater.** Palmer, a 20-year DWSD veteran, is justifiably proud of her daughter's achievement.

Brown and the rest of the Ensemble performed an inspiring rendition of Stephen Paulus' "Songs of Meditation" with the New England Symphonic Ensemble. "Songs of Meditation" is a spiritual suite comprised of six sections, or songs, based



Photo courtesy of Deborah Palmer

on poems written by women who lived from the 11<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and embracing a spectrum of cultural diversity: Indian, German, and Japanese.

"This was a great experience for these young ladies. It's not often that you hear the good things our students are doing in the Detroit Public School System. So, this proud mom wanted to share this fantastic news," said Palmer.

## Connor Creek is honored for excellence



Photo courtesy of Khamis Al-Omari

DWSD's Mirza Rabbaig and Terry Moore (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> from left) are flanked by Khamis Al-Omari (far left), Curt Courter and Charlie Hocking (far right) of Hazen and Sawyer.

by Michael Daisy  
Public Affairs

DWSD's Connor Creek Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Facility received the 2007 Honorable Conceptor Award for Engineering during ceremonies in February in

Mt. Pleasant. The award is presented annually by the American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan and the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers. It is the highest honor in the organizations' Engineering and Surveying Excellence Awards program.

The state-of-the-art Connor Creek facility became operational in 2005, and is one of Michigan's largest CSO treatment facilities. It can treat up to 2.2 billion gallons of overflow, and eliminated three outfalls to the Detroit River.

A unique feature of this award-winning location is the 76,000 square-foot fish habitat constructed in nearby Maheras Gentry Park, a 52-acre public space abutting the grounds of the treatment facility. The habitat has added immeasurably to the park's recreational utility.

DWSD received the Environmental Management Association's Environmental Achievement Award in 2003 in recognition of its efforts to minimize the impact of dredging operations on the Detroit River during construction.

## Kudos

**Doris E. Butler – Customer Service Representative II, Commercial Operations** – was singled out by one of the Department's retail customers for helping her to obtain a final meter reading. Butler went out of her way to get the customer's information during her lunch break, and was praised for her communication skills, dedication, and ability to get "the job completed in a reasonable amount of time."

**Louise Bannerman – Office Assistant III, Public Affairs** – helped straighten out a billing concern for a Detroit homeowner mistakenly charged for 207 units of water. Bannerman brought the issue to the attention of DWSD's Field Investigation unit, which resulted in a credit of nearly \$1,000.

Lynnette Boyle of the Sterling Group was glad she contacted new **Assistant Director Terrence D. King** earlier this year after the Detroit Downtown Development Authority contracted Sterling to resolve some maintenance issues on four buildings in Harmonie Park. King, who was Superintendent of Water Systems Maintenance and Construction at the time "...responded promptly, professionally and followed through on solving our (water-related) problems..."

**Gwendolyn Card – Commercial Operations Specialist I, Commercial Operations** – helped a customer straighten out a billing problem that resulted in a refund of \$29,149.56. Lovette M. Jackson, Pastoral Assistant/Office Manager for St. Elizabeth R.C. Church on East Canfield in Detroit said the assistance she received from Card "made this very long process very pleasant" and called her "a wonderful asset to the ... Water Department."

## Life is good

by Suzanne Stapleton  
Commercial Operations

**Michaela Cleckley – Customer Service Representative III, Commercial Operations** – can't believe how much her life has turned around. All her energies had turned inward, focusing on church, her sons and grandchildren since her acceptance of the widowhood imposed on her by the illness that claimed her husband's life in 2003.

Then came that fateful day last November at Eastland Mall when she caught the eye of Dannell Williamson. The

attraction was immediate. There was conversation and phone numbers were exchanged. They learned they had much in common, especially a strong faith, love of sports and music of all types. Suddenly, life was imitating art from a song by Etta James, "My lonely days are over, and life is like a song." \*

Their whirlwind courtship was followed by a quiet exchange of nuptials on March 5.

Michaela's co-workers were delighted by the news. When she returned to work she was

given a surprise shower organized by a small group of conspirators led by Bethany Batie, Stephanie Hogue, Sylvia Mosby, and Knyiesha Carroll. There was much laughter, a few tears, and several gifts, both naughty and nice.

Life is, indeed, good.

\* from "At Last" – by Harry Warren and Mack Gordon

## Water Safety Tips

More than 4,000 people of all ages (mostly children) annually lose their lives in drowning accidents in the United States. Most of these tragedies are preventable. The following tips will help you and your children safely enjoy your summer:

- **Never leave a child alone** near water: a bathtub, the pool, or at the beach. It only takes seconds for a tragedy to occur.
- **Learn to swim**, and swim well. Enroll children over age three in swimming lessons. Don't forget about older children. They tend to overestimate their swimming skills, or underestimate the depth or speed of water.
- **Know how to perform CPR.** If your child is 13-19, make sure he or she knows as well.
- **When boating**, make sure every passenger is wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved flotation device. Store some extra gear aboard in a watertight container that floats: flashlight, extra batteries, matches, a map of where you are, flares, sun-block, first-aid kit, and extra sunglasses.

### Sources:

About dot com  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Red Cross  
Arizona Department of Health Services  
Loyola University Health System  
Mayo Clinic  
National Safety Council  
University of Missouri Extension



## Hot Weather Pet Safety

Don't forget about the welfare of the four-legged members of your family. "The Michigan Humane Society (MHS) reminds pet guardians to keep their animals' comfort and safety in mind this summer. As always, MHS recommends that pets live indoors with their owners. However, if animals are left outside for any length of time, it's critical that they have access to shade and fresh, cool water. **When the weather is especially hot and humid, animals should be brought inside,**" said Nancy Gunnigle, MHS communications manager.

The following tips will help pet owners who keep animals outdoors safeguard their pets' health in summer, especially in extremely hot and/or humid weather:

- **Outside pets need plenty of water and ample shade/shelter.** Animals exposed to extreme temperatures that experience rapid panting and lethargy may be suffering heat exhaustion. Symptoms can include restlessness, excessive thirst, dark tongue, rapid heartbeat, vomiting, or lack of coordination. If you notice such symptoms, immerse him in cold water, or pour cold water over him, and contact your veterinarian immediately.
- **Avoid exercise or vigorous activity** with your pet during the heat of the day. If an animal's body temperature gets too high, irreparable brain damage or death can occur in a short amount of time. Limit shared activities like jogging or long walks to early morning or evening

hours. Be sure to provide plenty of cool water before, during, and after exercise.

- **Avoid hot concrete or asphalt surfaces.** These can damage or cause discomfort to an animal's paw pads.
- **Do not leave animals in parked cars.** Even on a relatively mild 85-degree day in the shade with the windows cracked, temperature inside a car will reach 120-degrees in minutes. Your dog's or cat's body can only tolerate the heat a short time before it becomes a life or death situation.
- **Your animal's coat** provides protection from both cold and heat, and helps prevent sunburn. After consulting your veterinarian, you may want to consider shaving the fur of thick-coated dogs and cats down to one-inch to prevent discomfort in hot weather. Some breeds like Siberian Huskies should **never** be shaved.
- **When camping, hiking or at the beach**, a nontoxic sun-block containing zinc oxide as an active ingredient can be applied to areas susceptible to sunburn, such as light-colored noses, belly, or tips of the ears.

For more information, visit [www.michiganhumane.org](http://www.michiganhumane.org), or contact Stephanie Baron at (248) 799-7479.

Source: Michigan Humane Society

## Health services in Michigan

Michigan Go Local is a project launched in January 2007. Their Web site provides a comprehensive listing of health services available in Michigan broken down by county and city. The whole health-care enchilada in one place.

The project is a component of a larger initiative called "MedlinePlus Go Local" created by the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health to help people locate health services available in their local communities.

The site doesn't quite cover the range of available services from A-to-Z because there's nothing currently listed for "Z". What is covered for Wayne County is A (Abdominal Pain) to Y (Yoga Programs) with hundreds of listings in between including Alzheimer's Disease, Asthma in Children, Dance Therapy, Faith-based Programs, Poison Control, Thoracic Surgeons, and much, much more. You can even find listings for health care services available in other states.

Visit <http://migolocal.blogspot.com/>. Click the "Michigan Go Local" link, then "Services by Location". For local services for any one of Michigan's 83 counties, locate the county on the map of Michigan and click on it. It's easier than it sounds. Check it out.

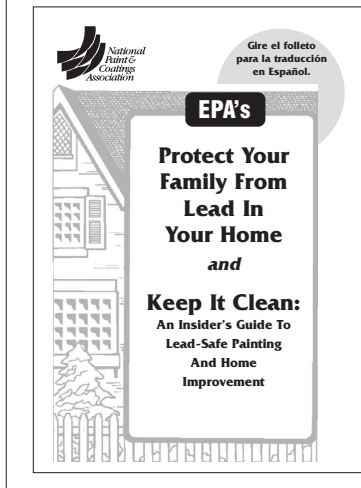
## Lead awareness

by Greg Smith  
Public Affairs

You probably can't start an argument by walking into a crowded bar and announcing that lead is harmful for children and other living things. Most people will likely agree with you or, want to know exactly what point you're trying to make.

Lead is especially harmful to children. Lead poisoning can cause a long list of problems including mental retardation, impaired educational performance, as well as impaired nerve and muscular development, and the list goes on. For example, did you know that lead poisoning at an early age can lead to osteoporosis in later life?

Lead is a big concern in Detroit because of the number



of homes built when lead in paint and plumbing fixtures was commonplace.

### Renovations

Are you considering upgrading your home by taking advantage of one of those deals where you get one window free for every however many windows you

buy? If you live in an older home (or have tenants living in an older home you own) with lead based paint, be careful. If proper precautions aren't followed when the old windows are removed, you can end up with lead-based dust distributed throughout the home. Avoid consequences

down the road by making sure the job is done right.

For more information about lead and lead poisoning, visit the National Safety Council ([www.nsc.org](http://www.nsc.org)), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ([www.epa.gov/lead/](http://www.epa.gov/lead/), also click the link for "Additional Resources"), the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([www.cpsc.org](http://www.cpsc.org)), or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development ([www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)).

For more information specifically about HUD technical guidelines for evaluation and control of lead-based paint hazards in housing, visit the following link: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/guidelines/hudguidelines/index.cfm>.

## Your Health

### A cure for Alzheimer's disease?

Get ready to be inundated by ads about aspirin as a wonder drug that wards off Alzheimer's disease. Recent studies conducted by *The European Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* (EJCP) claim that people who take a low, daily "dose of aspirin for several years reduce their risk of developing Alzheimer's by 13 percent."

Alzheimer's disease is caused by inflammation that disrupts proteins in the brain. Researchers believe aspirin and possibly other nonsteroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs such as ibuprofen or Advil can disrupt the process.

Aspirin is recognized as a blood-thinning agent that

makes it harder for blood clots that can cause heart attacks and strokes to form.

There has been *some* corroboration of the EJCP study from researchers who studied nonsteroidal drug usage by more than 3,000 people in Utah either developing or diagnosed with full-blown dementia. On the other hand, findings were questioned by another study of 6,000 older women who took regular doses of 100 milligrams of aspirin. Researchers claim cognitive skills of those women were no better than participants given a placebo.

And the debate goes on. Stay tuned.

Aspirin has other known side effects. It can cause stomach bleeding and ulcers. That's why you should consult your

doctor before undertaking any Aspirin regimen.

### Turning off the Alzheimer's gene

There's more potentially good brain news thanks to an unrelated study published in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*. Scientists successfully switched off a gene associated with Alzheimer's disease in mice bred in the lab giving rise to the likelihood for new drugs and treatments that will control a disease that robs people of their sense of self.

The gene, Cdk5, is linked to Alzheimer's and other diseases distinguished by a die-off of neurons in the brain.

The mice with the turned-off gene appear to be smarter. "Everything is more meaningful to these mice. The increase

in sensitivity to their surroundings seems to have made them smarter," said Dr. James Bibb, assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, who headed the study.

"It's pretty rare when you can make an animal smarter," he said.

Not only smarter but, better at tasks based on associated learning. "(That is) the most important kind of learning in the animal kingdom. It's how we know where our car is and that is our wife or our husband and that's our kids. It's how we connect things," he said.

Sources: CNN, *The New York Times*, Cynthia D. Mulrow, MD.

## Service Award Recipients

### April 2007



Recognized for service Chester L. Adams, Principal Governmental Analyst (25 years);

Not pictured: Terry G. Valentine, Head Water Plant Operator (25 years); Patricia A. Thompson, Customer Service Representative III (25 years); Ricky Dew, Plant Maintenance Foreman (25 years); and Thycodathu

Shajahan, Water Treatment Plant Operator (30 years). Not present were Ralph McCarty, Field Operations Supervisor (30 years); Michael Lewis, Assistant Chief of Water and Sewerage Security Administration (25 years); Daniel G. Levi Sr., Industrial Wastewater Systems Investigator (25 years); Walter Lockhart, Plant Maintenance Mechanic (25 years); Jarvis Ray Nelson, Wastewater Process Controller (25 years); and John M. Thomas, Draft Technician III (25 years).

### May 2007



Service honorees featured in this group shot (L-R) are Richard Nowak, Auto Repair Foreman (25 years); Ernest C. Alix, Water Treatment Plant Manager (30 years); Odia Hunter, Auto Repair Foreman (25 years); Harold W. Collins, Head Sewage Plant Operator (30 years) and Terrance Moore Sr., Assistant Head Sewage

Plant Operator (25 years); . Not shown: Richard A. Bova, Stores Operations Supervisor (30 years); Phillip M. Olson, Engineering Support Specialist II (30 years); Andrew Whidby, Head Sewage Plant Operator (25 years); Munshi R. Galhotra, Engineer of Water Systems (25 years).

## Annual party a hit

by Eva M. Hawkins  
Security

Out of curiosity several years ago, this writer attended DWSD's Retirement Party. That's what it was called back then, and it was held at Cobo Hall. The event has been renamed the "Annual Party" and this year's edition lived up to the name. It was a *Par-Tay!*

This year's party was the second in this writer's 27 years as an employee of the Water Department. This one was held at The Roostertail, and you better believe it was good.

The room was decorated magnificently. The food was delicious and served buffet style. You could even go back for seconds. And did we mention the dessert table?

For \$25, ticket-holders received a meal, two drinks, all the soda, juice, and coffee you could drink, and entertainment. There were lots of raffle prizes and, each attendee



received a souvenir bag containing two coffee mugs.

The 36 retirees who attended were honored and then every-

one was up on the dance floor. The men and women were dressed to the nines (do they still say that?).

Kudos to the committee responsible for bringing this event together (coordinators Marilyn Smith, Linda Philson, and Tara Danforth-Brown). Ladies, you did a wonderful job. Everything was push from beginning to end.

And let's not forget the volunteers without whom there would have been no party: Michael Andrews, Louise Bannerman, Harry Bullard, Rick Dew, Lynwood Elmore, Paul Gomez, Aquanda Green, Loraine Griffin, Benita Hamilton, Alma Harris, Barry

Jennings, Jacqui Jennings, Felicia Johnson, Rodney Johnson, Tashia Kelly, Angel Mason, Cora Riley, Carol Rizzo, Chequita Scott, LaTanya Smith, Danni Stillwell, and Andrew Whidby.

In closing, Security was on the job and looking smart. Your reporter can be forgiven for displaying a *tiny* bit of bias towards her coworkers, can't she?

If you have never been to the Water Department's Annual Party, you're missing a wonderful evening of safe, enjoyable, entertainment.





## DWSD workers help one of their own

by William Ware  
OPMA

When it comes to helping out one of their own, it's hard to beat DWSD employees for generosity. They certainly came through for Debra Westbrook, an Administrative Specialist I in DWSD's Office of Program Management Assistance, or OPMA. Debra and her family suddenly found themselves out of house and home in April because of a devastating fire.

Fortunately, the house was empty when the fire occurred. Still, all of Westbrook's belongings, in particular clothing, was either burned or damaged by soot, and she was pretty much left with what she had on her back.

Debra's co-workers pulled together contributions totaling more than \$1,000 in addition



Debra Westbrook, an Administrative Specialist I

to other needed items, including 25 dresses and 15 shirts for her son, Marvin, 20. She was "overwhelmed by the generosity of DWSD, and considers it a blessing."

Even though the fire only destroyed things that can be replaced, the loss of her home was heartbreaking because it was newly purchased in 2004 after many long years of

renting. Debra is currently living in temporary housing while she searches for something appropriate and more permanent, either a house or apartment in Detroit. She hopes to find something close to Children's Hospital where Marvin – who has Cerebral Palsy, a neurological disorder that usually presents in early childhood or infancy – receives treatment for his special needs.

Debra has spent most of her 28 years with the City of Detroit at Water. Before coming to OPMA in 1996, she spent time with Contracts and Grants, Industrial Waste Control, and Commercial. She also spent two years at Detroit City Council where she was a secretary for Council Member Nicholas Hood.



## In Loving Memory

### LaHoma Sparkman

March 28, 1939 – February 20, 2007



There is perfect joy and beauty  
In this everlasting light.  
(from memorial)

You could always depend on LaHoma Sparkman to bring homemade chicken and dumplings with her to the annual Security Christmas Dinner. Although retirement separated her from her former co-workers, she was always there for the annual dinner.

Members of Security were privileged to have Ms. Sparkman

with them at dinner last December. It was disappointing to hear that she wasn't feeling well, but we didn't think much about it since she was her usual upbeat self that day. So, it was both surprising and sad when we learned that she had passed in February.

She will be missed.

Ms. Sparkman worked as a Service Guard. She was assigned to the Central Services Facility at the time of her retirement.

Ms. Sparkman was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by two children, a grandchild, and, of course, members of her DWSD Security family.

### Romeo Cleofas Cruz

May 23, 1943 – March 30, 2007

Mr. Cruz is a former DWSD employee who worked for the department for about 10 years. Information is incomplete, but we have been advised that he may have been assigned to the Wastewater Treatment Plant as part of Engineering. Mr. Cruz was separated from the department as a result of a disability retirement. He is survived by his wife, Flordeliza Cruz.

Anyone who knows any details about Mr. Cruz' DWSD career is urged to contact *Water Power* editor Mike Daisy at 964-9493 or [daisy@dwsd.org](mailto:daisy@dwsd.org) for the purpose of doing a proper memorial of our co-worker.



## When Water Works Park was in its glory

by Michael Daisy  
Public Affairs

The silver spoons pictured here are from the collection of Cathy Daisy, who began collecting Detroit memorabilia about a year ago. Her collection includes depictions of many locations that, sadly, no longer exist, like the old city hall in Campus Martius, and the stately old post office building.

All of Daisy's Waterworks Park spoons, as well, focus on lost treasures like old Pumping Station No. 1, and the 185-foot tall standpipe, once the world's second tallest man-made structure. Still, collectables focusing on the Department's oldest location serve as proof the park was once not only open to the public, but a popular tourist attraction, as well.

The "souvenir spoon craze" in the U.S. began around 1890 and lasted for around 30 years. The decade of the 1890s is recognized as the golden age of spoon collecting because more patented designs were issued in that one decade than the combined total issued before or since.

Like many American hobbies of the Victorian era, spoon collecting was British inspired. The British version dates from around the time of the Crystal Palace Exhibition in London in 1851. Marketers created then willingly fed the demand for souvenir spoons that travelers purchased as mementos of their visits to noteworthy destinations.

Two American silversmiths – M.W. Galt of Washington, DC, and Seth F. Low of Salem, MA – are credited with transplanting the European "fad" to the U.S.

Of course, the real question remains unanswered. Who first thought that fancy flatware would be a good way to memorialize a visit to a tourist attraction?

Source: Antiques and Art Around Florida

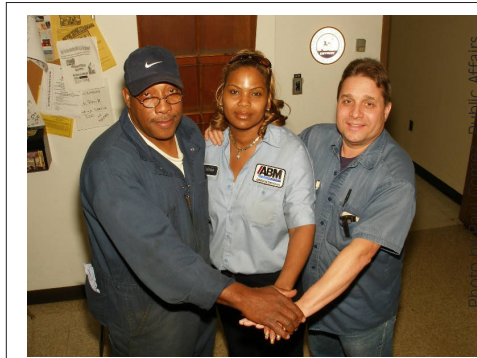


## Angels without wings

by Eva Hawkins  
Security

Angels and heroes aren't always easy to recognize, but some of them work for DWSD. Just ask Valerie Wilks, who works for ABM Janitorial Services at the Central Services Facility. Never mind, let her tell you what happened in the lunchroom in April:

"I wasn't feeling well, so I took some medication. I put a pill in my mouth, but it got stuck in my throat. I tried to push it down with my finger, with no luck. I started losing my breath. **Tony Virgona (Electrician)** was nearby and saw my distress. He tried to help me by hitting me on the back several times, but still the pill stayed stuck.



Johnny Barney, Valerie Wilks, and Tony Virgona share a bond.

"About this time **Johnny Barney (Water Systems Repair Worker)** came into the room. I was unable to talk so I gestured with my hands. Tears were running down my face and I was losing it. That's when Johnny hit my back, but he was also unsuccessful. My

eyes began rolling back in my head when Johnny put his arms around me and performed the Heimlich maneuver. He squeezed so hard he lifted me off the floor. The pill popped out.

"It took me a few minutes before I could breathe normally, but when I was able I couldn't thank them both enough. If they hadn't been there I might have died.

"I would like to thank Johnny Barney and Tony Virgona for

saving my life. They are my heroes. God always has an angel around!"

Barney said he was on his way to the vending machines to get a juice to go with his lunch when he saw Virgona and Wilks. She was coughing and crying. "Her eyes had rolled back in her head. I knew something was seriously wrong," he said, "So I performed the Heimlich procedure I had seen performed on television.

"It was several minutes before she could breathe normally and talk but," he said, "when she did she kept calling Tony and me her heroes and that God had sent her angels."

## A wonderful gift

Not long ago, Chuck Jackson III received a wonderful gift similar to the one given to George Bailey in the 1946 holiday classic *It's a Wonderful Life*. Like George, Jackson was given the opportunity to see how his life affects others.

Jackson, a General Auto Mechanic assigned to DWSD's West Yard garage, met Preston Robinson, 13, at "Meet Your Match," an event sponsored by Children's Hospital, and the American Red Cross at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in February.

Preston has Sickle Cell Anemia, a debilitating disease that affects one of every 12 African Americans, as well as people of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern descent. Jackson is one of Preston's regular donors.

Jackson, who began giving blood in the 1970s, about the time he came to DWSD, donates four or five times a year. "I love giving," he said, "I think I'm on my fourth or fifth gallon of blood."

Sickle Cell Anemia is so named because of the shape of the red blood cells that distribute oxygen in the body.

Normal red blood cells are round and move freely. Sickle cells are banana or crescent shaped. They tend to get stuck, restricting blood flow and oxygen to extremities and organs. The reduced flow can cause severe pain, organ damage, anemia, and, in severe cases, stroke. Roughly two million Americans have the disease.

Once bedridden and plagued by migraine headaches, Preston



has become "a normal child" since he began receiving monthly transfusions about three years ago, according to his mother, Melisa Robinson.

Jackson, who has been involved in department blood drives for years, said, "I love knowing that out of one pint of blood, which is about 20 minutes to give, you can save four lives."

Qualified blood donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds, and at least 17 years of age. For more information, call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or visit [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org).



photo courtesy of Annette Wilson-Stoudemire

### Off into the Wild Blue Yonder

Chaneita Wilson graduated from Crockett Vocational School in June. Chaneita's parents are **Annette Wilson-Stoudemire of DWSD Security, and Lamar Stoudemire, Water Systems Repairman.** Chaneita's graduation included a certificate for Pharmacy Technician. She is currently waiting for her departure date for enlistment in the U.S. Air Force.



photo by Paul Gomez, Public Affairs

### And the winner is

**Jeanette Fitts – Senior Voucher Audit Clerk, Accounts Payable** – won a new DVD player at the vendor fair at the Water Board Building in June. Jeanette's name was selected from those who entered the drawing sponsored by Lyons Financial Group, a financial advisor. Fitts has worked for the City of Detroit, most of it with Water. Before coming to DWSD in the '80s, she worked for the Finance, Assessors and Public Works Departments.

### Selected

**Andreia Johnson – Office Management Assistant, Water Supply Operations Group** – was selected in May for membership to the Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society at Wayne State University's College of Liberal Arts, and Sciences. The Society is nationally recognized as a group of students beyond traditional college age who have excelled in continuing education programs through scholarship and leadership. "...Andreia has exemplified the kind of employee-student-citizen of whom we can be proud," said Marsha Richmond – Acting Chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at the College of Liberal Arts, and Sciences.



photo by Paul Gomez, Public Affairs

### Elected

**Felicia Johnson – Messenger, Document Management** – was elected Trustee for AFSCME Local 2920 in March. The two-year term ends in 2009. The 12-year DWSD veteran (1990 City of Detroit seniority) has been an active union member for the last 10 years, part of which she served as a chief steward involved in union organizing training. Johnson is a graduate of the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs at Wayne State University, also known as "The Labor School." She recently took part in a year-long program of anti-racist and diversity training sponsored by the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS).

By the way, Felicia's daughter, India Johnson, is a member of "Switch Play TV," a local comedy troupe.

Contributors to this edition's Bits 'n' Pieces include: Suzanne Stapleton, Commercial; and William Ware, OPMA.



photo courtesy of Patricia-Moy Jennings

### Graduate and Mother

Nicole J. Brown – daughter of **Patricia Moy-Jennings, Office Assistant III at WWTP** – graduated from Baker College in June with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Leadership. Nicole will be continuing her educational career at Wayne State University where she plans to earn a Master's Degree in Instructional Technology. Nicole and her husband of 10 years, Michael, have two lovely daughters; Alexis, 9, and Niah, 4. Patricia is very

proud of Nicole's ability to hold down a full-time job, be a full-time Mom, loving wife and excellent student while keeping a very level head on her shoulders and maintaining a sense of self. You go, girl!

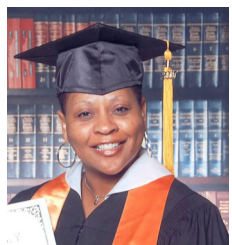


photo courtesy of Darlene King

### With Honors

**Darlene King – Office Assistant II, Office of Program Management Assistance** – accumulated a 3.84 grade point average to graduate summa cum laude with an Associate's Degree from Wayne County Community College in June. She decided to return to school in 2001 to enhance her promotion prospects, and chose criminal justice because of the opportunity it afforded for her to work with young people. The 10-year DWSD veteran said the hardest

part of her return to academia was working every day and attending classes at night. She plans to attend Wayne State in the fall to begin earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to coming to OPMA in 2006, King worked at the Operations lab at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### Honored for Academic Excellence

**Jetaun C. Coleman – Customer Service Supervisor, Commercial Operations**, was presented with the "Dean's Award for Distinguished Academic Performance" from the University of Detroit Mercy in March. Coleman, a Junior, is working on her Bachelors Degree with a double major in Arts & Science and Sociology.



photo by Paul Gomez, Public Affairs

## Metro Detroit leads U.S. in giving

*According to Charity Navigator – an independent charity evaluator – Detroit leads the nation in overall charitable giving for the second straight year.*