

TOWER TIMES

March/April 2022

WE ARE HIRING

STUDENTS EXPLORE LOCK 15

LEADERSHIP VISITS THE DISTRICT

AROUND THE
DISTRICT



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Rock Island District

Mission

The Rock Island District's mission is to deliver vital engineering and water resource solutions in collaboration with our partners to secure our Nation, reduce disaster risk and enhance quality of life, providing value to the region and Nation.

Vision

A premier public service, engineering organization of trusted, talented professionals delivering innovative and sustainable solutions to the region and Nation.

Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
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Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
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Disclaimer

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TOWER TIMES

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Mississippi River Maintenance Section Chief Matt Thurman talks with a group of students in the bottom of the dewatered chamber at Locks and Dam 15 during a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event over the winter. *Photo by Kelcy Hanson*

View on the web: www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Media/Publications/TowerTimes.aspx

LEADERSHIP REMARKS

Taking the Bar Higher in 2022



Kimberly Thomas
Deputy District Engineer and
Chief, Programs and Project
Management

To be surrounded by the most professional, intellectual and hard-working team is a great honor day in and day out. Like you, I had a choice of where to work. I chose the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Through selfless service and loyalty to the Nation, USACE is founded on a rich culture that takes pride in delivering projects that better the lives of the American people. We have entered unprecedented times that will prove to be a significant part of history as we embark on this once in a lifetime opportunity with the most recent passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, FY22 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, and the new Community Project Funding, previously known as earmarks.

Rock Island District was very fortunate to be the recipient of an additional \$1.2 Billion in IIJA funding, a true testimony to Congress' trust in us to deliver these important projects. Two construction new starts were received, the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) in the amount of \$829.1 million and the Brandon Road Interbasin Project (BRIP) in the amount of \$225.8 million. It is especially exciting to get NESP out of the starting blocks to construction as many of you have worked a significant amount of your career to bring this to fruition. Finally, \$167.3 Million of the IIJA was for Operations and Maintenance, allowing us to get after a lot of our aging infrastructure to include the 2023 Illinois Waterway closure work, new administrative buildings at Red Rock and Saylorville, and many more important investments. It is safe to say that it is not business as usual, and it is vital that we remain flexible and agile to adapt to the changing demands of these immense tasks.

On March 15, the FY22 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill was passed as part of a larger Federal Omnibus Bill, this is what we refer to as our regular annual appropriations. Until then, we had been operating under a Continuing Resolution, often referred to as a "CR." The FY22 Appropriations Bill provided \$8.343 billion in funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program. This funding amount is \$548M higher than the FY21 appropriations, and \$1.55 billion higher than the FY22 President's Budget released last year. The Rock Island District's portion of the bill for FY22 is \$268 million. Over the next 60 days, we will see the release of the Corps' work plan which will add projects and funding to the current Rock Island District appropriations total for FY22.

This historic workload will bring us great opportunities to be innovative, gain efficiencies, and build our bench of technical competence. It will take the entire team pulling on the rope in the same direction. We will lean heavily on recruiting and retaining the best talent out there, all while being flexible with remote and telework options. I ask you to be one of the 900+ Rock Island District ambassadors, to tell our story, and to assist our team with bringing in new, hardworking talent that can help us succeed. My door is always open to discuss new ideas, challenges and anything else that may be on your mind.

The challenge is upon us, and I am 100 percent confident that our team is resilient, strategic and will leverage good sound risk informed decision making to provide our Nation with world class infrastructure for generations to come. 🇺🇸

Essayons!
Kim Thomas, MVR DPM

WE ARE HIRING

By Kelcy Hanson, Editor

Over the past six months, the Rock Island District has been ramping up their recruitment and hiring efforts with a goal of growing the workforce by 10-15 percent by September 2022. The need for this expansion has become critical due to the extensive amount of upcoming and ongoing programs and projects happening throughout the District and the fact that many employees are reaching retirement age.

According to Don Feldman, Human Resource Specialist, the Rock Island District employed around 970 people, as of January. The primary departments hiring new staff include the divisions of Construction and Engineering, Project Management, Contracting, and Real Estate. Nearly 300 employees currently work within these departments and in the next five months, the District aims to find highly qualified and motivated employees to push that number closer to 350.

"The District is moving full-steam ahead with hiring initiatives that include new and different ideas that have not been explored in the past. The first step is hiring a recruiter and their primary focus will be to bring new talent to the organization," said Celeste Iverson, Resource Management chief. "It is exciting to have a new position where this is all they have to focus on. Our managers and supervisors already have a demanding workload, so having a recruiter who can do initial interviews and handle the screening process, will be a big benefit."

Hosting Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) events is one way the District is working to reach potential students who may have an interest in the wide range of job opportunities offered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Providing students with hands-on experience and a space to ask questions has been a valuable tool to gain interest for internships and future job shadowing, which is


currently available during the summer months. One of the duties of the new recruiter will be to continue to seek out and attend career fairs at both high school and college levels.

USACE is committed to having a cohesive, diverse team of highly qualified and experienced professionals to deliver the program and meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. As part of its recruitment efforts, the District has continued to keep diversity, equity and inclusion as top priorities while seeking to attract and retain its newly expanded workforce. Building relationships with underrepresented communities and diverse educational institutions has helped in getting the hiring message out to broad-based audiences who

may not be familiar with USACE and its missions.

Another way the District has been working to reach new interested talent is using the online social media platform, LinkedIn. The Rock Island District is one of only a few districts in USACE using the application and followers have been on the rise since late last year.

"Since Dec. 1 when we started consistently listing job postings and events on our LinkedIn feed, our number of followers has gone up by 51 percent," said Jim Finn, social media manager for the District. "Our page interactions have also increased by 163 percent over the last four months, compared to the four months prior to Dec. 1."

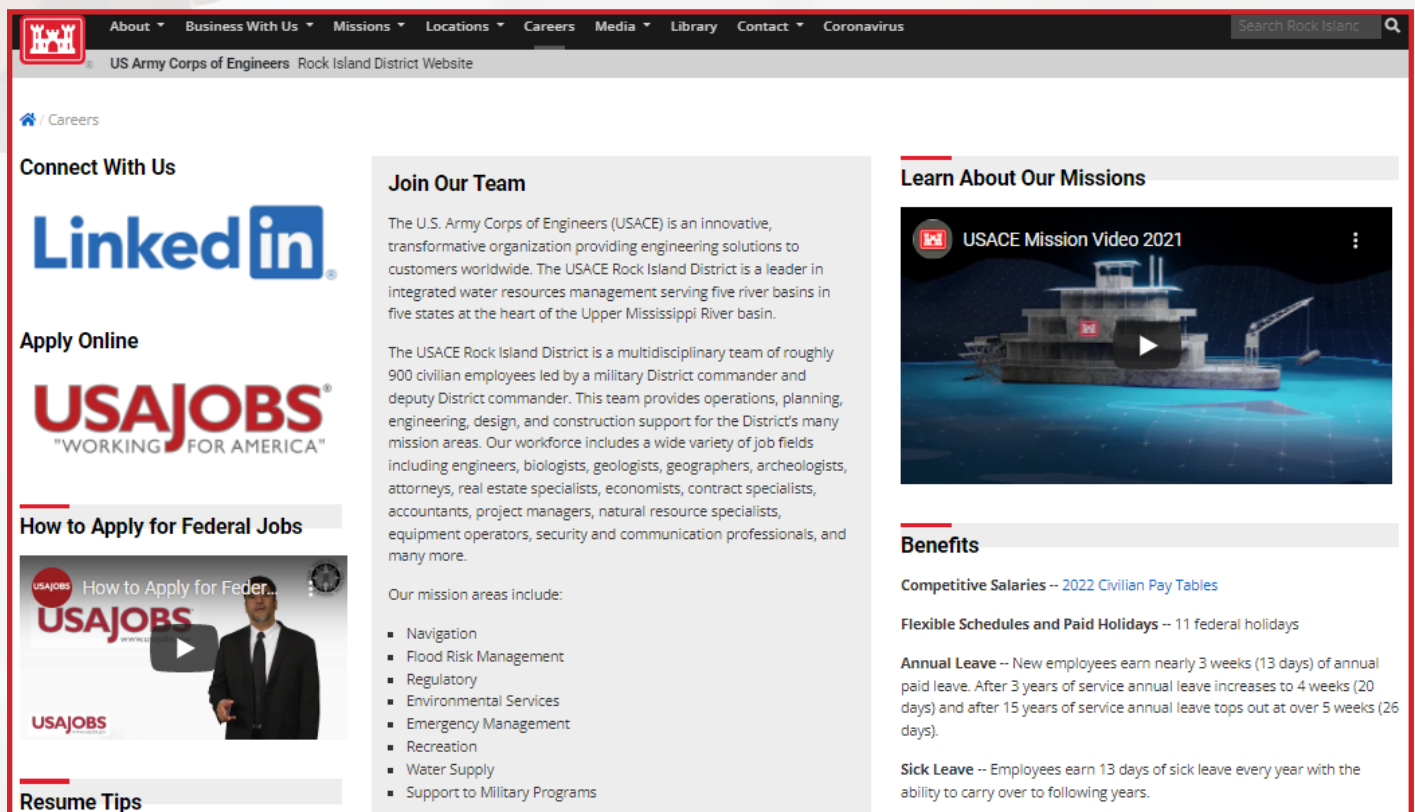
To follow the Rock Island District on LinkedIn, visit: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/us-army-corps-of-engineers-rock-island-district/> or search for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District on your LinkedIn app. More information, including benefits details, resume writing tips and a video on how to apply for jobs, is available on our careers page at: <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Careers/>. 



Local high school and college educators listen as representatives from the Rock Island District provide insight about careers with the Corps of Engineers.

Photo by Sam Heilig

“ The District is moving full-steam ahead with hiring initiatives that include new and different ideas that have not been explored in the past. ”



The screenshot displays the official website of the US Army Corps of Engineers Rock Island District. The top navigation bar includes links for About, Business With Us, Missions, Locations, Careers, Media, Library, Contact, and Coronavirus. A search bar is located on the right. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Connect With Us' featuring a LinkedIn logo; 'Apply Online' with the USAJOBS logo and the tagline 'WORKING FOR AMERICA'; 'How to Apply for Federal Jobs' with a video thumbnail; 'Resume Tips'; 'Join Our Team' which describes the USACE as an innovative organization and lists mission areas including Navigation, Flood Risk Management, Regulatory, Environmental Services, Emergency Management, Recreation, Water Supply, and Support to Military Programs; 'Learn About Our Missions' with a video thumbnail titled 'USACE Mission Video 2021'; and 'Benefits' which details competitive salaries, flexible schedules, and paid holidays, including annual and sick leave policies.

Connect With Us

LinkedIn

Apply Online

USAJOBS
"WORKING FOR AMERICA"

How to Apply for Federal Jobs

USAJOBS How to Apply for Feder...
USAJOBS

Resume Tips

Join Our Team

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is an innovative, transformative organization providing engineering solutions to customers worldwide. The USACE Rock Island District is a leader in integrated water resources management serving five river basins in five states at the heart of the Upper Mississippi River basin.

The USACE Rock Island District is a multidisciplinary team of roughly 900 civilian employees led by a military District commander and deputy District commander. This team provides operations, planning, engineering, design, and construction support for the District's many mission areas. Our workforce includes a wide variety of job fields including engineers, biologists, geologists, geographers, archeologists, attorneys, real estate specialists, economists, contract specialists, accountants, project managers, natural resource specialists, equipment operators, security and communication professionals, and many more.

Our mission areas include:

- Navigation
- Flood Risk Management
- Regulatory
- Environmental Services
- Emergency Management
- Recreation
- Water Supply
- Support to Military Programs

Learn About Our Missions

USACE Mission Video 2021

Benefits

Competitive Salaries -- 2022 Civilian Pay Tables

Flexible Schedules and Paid Holidays -- 11 federal holidays

Annual Leave -- New employees earn nearly 3 weeks (13 days) of annual paid leave. After 3 years of service annual leave increases to 4 weeks (20 days) and after 15 years of service annual leave tops out at over 5 weeks (26 days).

Sick Leave -- Employees earn 13 days of sick leave every year with the ability to carry over to following years.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION LEADERSHIP MAKES VISIT TO ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT


By Sam Heilig, Public Affairs Specialist

Mississippi Valley Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Diana Holland, made a visit to the Rock Island District in late March to engage with key partners, local educators and District employees.

On her first day in the field, Holland met with the new mayor of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Tiffany O'Donnell as well as other city leaders to discuss the Cedar Rapids Flood Risk Management Project and its progress on design and construction. While in Cedar Rapids she and her team also toured completed and ongoing construction efforts along the Cedar River where floodwalls and closure structures are being built to reduce flood risk to the city.

Holland's next stop was at Coralville Lake where she met with project and natural resource management staff to talk about outreach and interpretive education efforts and tour one of the last remaining sign shops in the USACE enterprise.

Following her visits to Cedar Rapids and Coralville, Holland returned to Rock Island and met with high school and college educators participating in a Rock Island District Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event aimed at increasing local awareness of USACE career opportunities. During this event, Holland spoke one-on-one with many of the participants and gathered feedback from them about the challenges they face in guiding students to work for the federal government.

The next day, Holland hosted a Town Hall meeting where she recognized selected employees for their significant contributions to the District and gave an overview of her top priorities and future vision for the Division. After the Town Hall, she met with employees participating in the Emerging Leaders and Leadership Development programs and got the chance to talk with them about goals and future plans with the organization. 



Maj. Gen. Diana Holland speaks with Sarah Auvenshine and Cathy Tillberg during an Emerging Leaders luncheon. Photo by Kelcy Hanson



Maj. Gen. Diana Holland meets with city leaders at one of the Cedar Rapids Flood Risk Management project sites. Photo by Jim Finn



Natural Resource Specialist Shawna Polen stands with Mississippi Valley Division Commander Maj. Gen. Diana Holland and Dudley, Coralville Lake's unofficial prehistoric fish mascot. *Photo by Jim Finn*



Maj. Gen. Diana Holland gathers with city officials under the 'Tree of Five Seasons' statue in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. *Photo by Jim Finn*



During a Town Hall meeting with the Rock Island District, Maj. Gen. Diana Holland presents a commanders coin to Carrie Scroggins for her exceptional work at the Des Moines River Area Office. *Photos by Kelcy Hanson*

STUDENTS EXPLORE BOTTOM OF MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN DEWATERED LOCK 15

By Kelcy Hanson, Editor

Getting the chance to view the bedrock bottom of the Mississippi River is a rare opportunity but standing on it became a once in a lifetime experience for some visitors this past winter. In January, the Rock Island District hosted a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) event where students toured the inside of the dewatered lock chamber at Locks and Dam 15 in Rock Island, Illinois. The dewatering process, something only performed every 30 years or so, was necessary to perform scheduled maintenance and repairs and to allow for inspections of areas normally found under water.

During the event, local college and high school educators and their students came from around the Quad Cities area to take part in the tours. Maintenance staff and park rangers from the Mississippi River Project were on hand to guide the groups through various stations where they learned about navigation on the Mississippi River, the importance of the locks and dams for maintaining navigable water levels, and the extensive amount of work involved in operating and maintaining the nation's critical inland waterway navigation system.

Matt Thurman, Mississippi River Maintenance Section Chief, located in the Mississippi Project Office, explained to students the importance of doing routine inspections while the lock is dewatered.

"The locks are normally underwater 24/7/365 so we are unable to fully inspect the locks thoroughly unless they are dewatered. All aspects of the lock will undergo inspections while the chamber is empty."

In addition to routine inspections, concrete sill beams were installed in the base of the lock to provide full-width support for the temporary walls, known as bulkheads, used during dewatering efforts. The locks, which were built in the early 1930s, were not originally designed for full-width bulkhead placement and are now being retrofitted to make maintenance easier in the future.

During the event, tour participants viewed maintenance employees working on replacement projects including bubbler system plumbing, miter gate anchorages and lock wall concrete. For some, the tour of the facility was the first exposure to lock operations. For others, the behind-the-scenes look at repairs was an opportunity to get often wondered

questions answered.

"I have fished for many years next to these locks and have always wondered what all the bubbles were," said Ben Carter, Earth Science teacher, Mediapolis School District. "Until walking down here, I never thought to think it was a massive compressor pushing air to move debris."

Due to the uneven surface of the riverbed in the bottom of the lock, much of the grinding, cutting and replacement of concrete on the walls was done from a suspended man-basket hanging from a crane. Seeing and learning about these logistical challenges was an eye-opening experience for many on the tours.


"Today has been a fantastic opportunity for our students," said Carter. "These kids have a lot of questions, they live next to the largest river in North America, and they don't fully understand what the government has to do in order to control the river. It's pretty impressive."

Marcus Hall from the North Scott School District teaches an Iowa Jobs for America's Graduates class made up of junior and senior high students who are exploring different job opportunities by visiting employers and looking for something that piques their interest.

"Prior to coming today, I had some students interested in welding and manufacturing, and this was the perfect opportunity to show them some potential jobs that they could use those skills in a government setting," said Hall. "It is nice to expose them to a setting where they can see employees working on a large-scale project. We were also able to bring some female students today and they were able to be exposed to female park rangers and the public affairs



photographer to show that the Corps of Engineers also hires individuals that have other degrees besides engineering."

Over the course of the two-day event, a total of 230 students and educators braved the cold to visit the bottom of the lock chamber at Locks and Dam 15. The unique opportunity to visit the moonscape-like riverbed and stand in the space where 30 feet of water normally flows left participants with a new found appreciation for those working to maintain the essential waterway system. 



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

By Kelcy Hanson, Editor

GREGORY HAND NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

Gregory Hand started his career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in April 2020 as a natural resource specialist at Saylorville Lake. After graduating high school, he joined the United States Navy and was stationed on the USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG 58 in Mayport, Florida. During his time in the Navy, Hand served as an active-duty sailor for six years and deployed three times to the Mediterranean Sea/Indian Ocean.

Upon leaving active duty, he enrolled at Iowa State University and graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Animal Ecology-Fisheries in May 2018. While attending Iowa State, Hand worked for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources seasonally as a water patrol officer at Saylorville Lake. As a water patrol officer, he often worked with the Corps of Engineers during emergencies and patrol. His experience with the IDNR and his Naval career has helped him get to where he is today.

Today, Hand continues to serve as a sailor for the U.S. Navy Reserve and drills out of the Navy Operational Support Center in Des Moines, Iowa. He belongs to the Surgemain unit. In August 2020, Hand deployed to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard for nine months to support COVID-19 relief efforts.

To broaden his experience outside the realm of conservation law enforcement and to gain more experience on the recreation and environmental stewardship side of natural resources, Hand began seeking employment with the Corps. Some of his primary job duties at Saylorville Lake include overseeing fisheries management, the day use fee program, performing boat maintenance, writing citations and warnings, and offering visitor assistance.

"I would say the one thing I like most about my job is the diversity in the day-to-day tasks and the freedom to assist other rangers with different projects," said Hand, when asked what he enjoys most about his job.

Recently, a concerned citizen came to the office after spotting a Red-tailed Hawk in distress. The individual reported the hawk seeming to be tangled in fishing line in a tree and unable to free itself. Hand and natural resource specialist, Max McCarty, gathered equipment to free the hawk and contain



Gregory Hand, Natural Resource Specialist, holds an injured Red-tailed Hawk at Saylorville Lake. Photo by Derek Murken

it, if it was not fatally wounded.


They located the hawk and assessed the severity of the situation. Then they began working to free the bird from the branch in which it was tangled by carefully using an extension saw to cut the fishing line. Once the hawk was free, it safely landed on the ground below the tree and stayed there as it was still tangled in fishing line and had an obvious wound to its wing.

Hand approached the hawk wearing heavy gloves and eye protection. He used his prior experience with wildlife to gently grab the bird's legs, cover its eyes and secure its beak. Then Hand and McCarthy carefully cut and removed more fishing line and examined the bird's body finding only a few flesh wounds and no obvious broken bones. Hand placed the hawk in a pet carrier and transported it back to the Saylorville Lake administrative complex and called Iowa Bird Rehabilitation, a state approved rehabber in the Des Moines, Iowa, area.

Later that day, Hand and Jenni Boonjakuakul from Iowa Bird Rehabilitation worked together to finish removing the rest of the tangled fishing line. In early March, Iowa Bird Rehabilitation transferred the hawk

to the Saving Our Avian Resources (SOAR) facility for further rehabilitation. At the time of the transfer, the rehabber indicated the hawk was eating great and very feisty. The goal will be to release the hawk back at Saylorville Lake when it is ready.

Although the District's natural resource management staff may not regularly work with animals, wildlife is found in abundance throughout the areas they maintain and patrol. When it comes to providing response, natural resource specialists are trained to assess the situation and respond accordingly in the safest manner possible. In this situation it was not a human visitor needing help but likely a native avian resident to the lake. Hand used his experience and knowledge of safely handling wildlife to quickly resolve the situation and his relationship with partner organizations to get care for the injured bird.

Outside of work, Hand enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter and his pastimes include hunting and fishing, shed hunting and when in season, mushroom hunting. He likes to live by his own advice, 'take it one day at a time!' 



Can you name where this photo was taken?

If so, send your answer to Kelcy.C.Hanson@usace.army.mil to be featured in the next issue of the Tower Times.

Last Issue's Winner



Answer : North Shore of Lake Red Rock
Winner: Adam Boeckensdt



'IRON RANGERS' GIVE WAY TO MODERN-DAY FEE COLLECTIONS OPTIONS

By Sam Heilig, Public Affairs Specialist

For many years, the 'Iron Ranger' was a primary fee collection method for recreation areas across the county. These locked metal cases with small slits in the side for depositing cash payment envelopes, were commonly used at boat ramps, campgrounds and beaches where reservations were not required and onsite fee attendants were not available. This recreation season, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, has introduced two new fee payment methods to replace those Iron Rangers and make fee payment easier for recreational users.

Self-serve payment machines and mobile apps, which only accept credit or debit card payments, are now the only method of payment for use at select boat ramps, beaches and even a few campgrounds found throughout the District. No cash, coins or checks will be accepted at these sites.

At Saylorville Lake self-serve machines are available at boat ramps including Lake View Main, Lake View Highwater, Sandpiper, and Cherry Glen as well as Oak Grove Beach. At Lake Red Rock the self-serve machines can be found at the South Overlook, Marina Cove, Howel Station Landing, and Whitebreast boat ramps. At Coralville Lake, both the beach and boat ramp at West Overlook now offer self-serve payment machines as well as the Mehaffey Bridge boat ramp.

"Transitioning to automated fee machines has

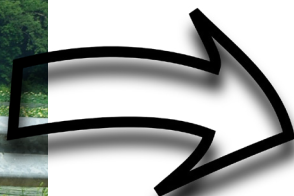
allowed us to streamline the recreation fee collection process and also meet the demand of our visitors to provide the option for credit card payment," said Darren Schneider, Lead Recreation Fee Cashier at Coralville Lake.

On the Mississippi River Project, both new payment options are being used in various areas. Self-serve machines are in use at Big Slough

boat ramp as well as Blanding Landing and Pleasant Creek boat ramps and campgrounds. And the new Scan and Pay option, which uses QR codes and the Recreation.gov mobile app, is being used at Bulger's Hollow, Cattail Slough, Clark's Ferry, and Shady Creek boat ramps as well as first-come, first-served campsites at Bulger's Hollow, Blanchard Island and Fisherman's Corner North. This mobile app option allows users to scan a QR code onsite with a smartphone or tablet and make payment directly through the Recreation.gov app.

"Incorporating automated fee machines while going to cashless transactions increases the efficiency of the recreation fee programs at our projects," said Doug Vogel, Operations Division, Project Support Section, Chief. "It also decreases the safety risks of handling cash and the chance of fraud while adapting to what is becoming prevalent in today's society, electronic payments."

For more information on recreation in the Rock Island District visit: <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/>.

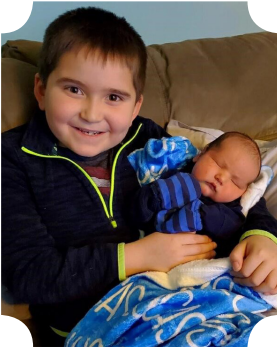


Left: Previous pay station known as an 'Iron Ranger' found at many recreation areas in the Rock Island District. Right: New self serve pay station installed to replace Iron Rangers. Photos provided by Operations Division

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Please send family news to
Kelcy.C.Hanson@usace.army.mil to be
included in the next issue of the
Tower Times.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Natalie Werthmann and her fiancé on the birth of their son, Lucas Kristopher Williams, on Dec. 31. Lucas weighed in at 8 pounds and was 19 1/2 inches long. He's already loved by his big brother Anthony.



Congratulations to Kayleigh and Nick Thomas on the birth of their daughter, Adalynn Marie Thomas, on Feb. 5. Adalynn weighed in at 7 pounds, .5 ounces and 18 1/2 inches long. She's already loved by her big sister Nora.

SYMPATHY



On February 7, the Rock Island District lost a member of the Structural Engineering Section. John Ellerhoff passed away at the age 69. Ellerhoff was employed with the District since 1995. He could be found shooting hoops down at the Arsenal fitness center, wearing a goofy sweat band, looking straight out of the 1960-70s era. Ellerhoff loved buying baked goods from the Amish, such as pies and pecan cinnamon rolls and was known for buying extras to share with office friends. He always loved a good heated discussion but would intently listen to reasonings, consider all views and sometimes even change his mind. He was a joy to be around and will be missed by many.



Thomas Bass, Sr., 88, of Colona, Illinois passed away December 14. Bass was a Navy veteran and served in the Korean war. He retired from the District in 1997 as Chief Employee and Labor Relations Specialist.



Michael Hayes, 70, of Erie, Illinois passed away Feb. 1. Hayes was a Marine veteran and retired from the District in 2018 with over 32 years of federal service. He worked as the Iowa Section Chief of the Regulatory Branch.



Willam Pilkington, 69, of Keokuk, Iowa passed away December 20. Pilkinton was an Army veteran and served the District as a lockman at Lock and Dam 19 for 22 years, until retirement in 2014.



Chester Peterson, 73, of Alpha, Illinois passed away Feb. 3. Peterson was an Army veteran and retired in 2008 with over 28 years of federal service. He worked as a Hydrologic Technician in the Water Control Section.



RETIREMENTS

Michael Lorah, Chief for Security and Law Enforcement, retired Dec. 31, after dedicating 22 years of service to the federal government.

Ronald Faletti, Engineering Technician, retired Dec.31, after dedicating over 34 years of service to the federal government.

Jeffery Mayers, Welder for the Mississippi River Maintenance Section, retired Dec. 31, after dedicating nearly 30 years of service to the federal government.

Daniel Johnson, Supervisory Land Surveyor, retired Dec. 31, after dedicating over 21 years of service to the federal government.

John Easley, Electronics Mechanic for the Mississippi River Maintenance Section, retired Dec.31, after dedicating over 46 years of service to the federal government.

Michael Edwards, Area Engineer, retired Jan. 1, after dedicating over 25 years of service to the federal government.

Douglas Nelson, Appraisal Branch Chief in Real Estate, retired Jan. 1, after dedicating over 11 years of service to the federal government.

William Harkness, Deputy Directory for Inland Navigation Design Center, retired Jan.31, after dedicating over 31 years of service to the federal government.

Charles Van Laarhoven, Chief of Cost Engineering and Specification Section, retired Feb. 28, after dedicating over 31 years of service to the federal government.

Beverly Rice, retired Dec. 31, after dedicated 34 years working as a bank teller in the Clock Tower. Most recently, it was operated as the Gas and Electric Credit Union.

Lee Matherly, retired March 1, after dedicating nearly 25 years of being employed through ARC to manage the Clock Tower mail room.



(Net)Working Lunches Employee Invite

- » Would you be interested in participating in a program to get to know your Rock Island District co-workers better?
- » Are you a new employee and overwhelmed with all the folks to meet?
- » Has it been a while since you did your intern rotation and everyone you met has changed?
- » Want to get to know people on your Project Delivery Teams in a setting that doesn't involve a meeting agenda?

Contact Erica Stephens at: erica.l.stephens@usace.army.mil.

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER

Jason Smith



Jason has led a crew in completion of several critical projects such as a new scooter shed, installation of a drain and repair of missing concrete on Lock walls.

NOVEMBER

Hali Strobel



Hali's work with the Safety SharePoint site provided value to the District by giving everyone direct access to important safety-related information.

DECEMBER

Aaron Sickels & John Hummel



Aaron and John are recognized for their outstanding coordination and construction oversight for the Des Moines Railroad Closures DM-87 and DM-88.

JANUARY

Blayne Walker



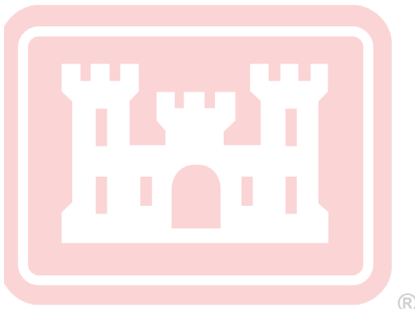
Blayne stepped in to maintain the Lock in his capacity as both the mechanic and assistant lockmaster to ensure there was no delay to navigation.

FEBRUARY

Jean Rodriguez & Mike Cummings



Jean and Mike were given only one week to develop three budgetary cost estimates to compare three unique designs concepts for the Detroit Area Office Facility Lab.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND
CLOCK TOWER BLDG. – P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, IL 61204-2004

2022 LOCKMASTER MEETING



Back Row (L-R) James McKeon, Matthew Traver, Michael Bielser, Christopher Rush, John Williams, Gary Kilburg, James Knight, Perry Jones, Jeffery Gibbs, Jerry Snyder, Joshua Hathaway, Nicholas Schnerre, John James, Brad Hank, Clifford Wright, John Mueller, Scott Cooper, James McDaniel, Justin Carter; Front Row (L-R) Jeff Tripp, Robert Castro, Aaron Dunlop, Thomas Heinold, Col. Curry, Douglas Morgan, Nichole Traver, Jeff Scukanec, Matthew Whitley