

# WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS ONLINE

JANUARY 2007

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Up Front:  
Are You  
Listening?** 2

**The Public  
Stands to Be  
Counted** 3

**Environmental  
Section Folks  
Tapped for  
National/  
Regional Work** 6

**Wilmington  
District Says  
Goodbye to  
Howard Var-  
nam** 9

**District Court  
Judge Gives  
Inspirational  
MLK breakfast  
Speech** 10

**In the Spot-  
light:  
Bean Counting  
Bead Stringer** 12

**Reaching Out  
and Corps  
Family News** 15



Freshly dredged material is sculpted into a beach by a construction worker at Ocean Isle Beach.

## SHORE PROTECTION FRONT LINE OF DEFENSE FOR COASTAL NORTH CAROLINA LIVING

### Story and Photos by Hank Heusinkveld

Chief of Coastal, Hydrology and Hydraulics Dr. Greg Williams illustrates how renourished beaches protect lives and property on coastal North Carolina with this example:

“In the mid-90s we had a shore protection project at Carolina Beach, but not at Kure Beach. We have records showing how many structures were damaged during Hurricane Dennis,” he stated. “Outside the project, especially in the Kure Beach area, there were something like 960 structures that had significant damage or that were destroyed. Within our project at Carolina Beach there were none, zero. In addition, the Corps’ Insti-

tute for Water Research did a report after Hurricane Fran hit in 1996 that concluded the projects did what they were supposed to do. Shore protection works.”

Shore protection has been a specialty of the Wilmington District for projects since the early 1970s at Wrightsville, Carolina, Kure and Ocean Isle Beaches. These beaches have regular beach renourishment cycles and are magnets for homeowners, businesses and tourists. It’s a fact of life that these beaches, like others, change daily. In geological time as soon as a beach is constructed Mother Nature washes it away, making beach-renourished areas vulnerable until man

**UP FRONT****COMMUNICATION AND LISTENING**

LTC Patrick Tilque,  
Dep. District Commander

The ability to actively listen has been proven to dramatically improve professional capabilities. Yet ironically, listening is the least developed skill. When were *you* formally trained to listen? Chances are, never. Most of us believe listening is simply hearing—but it's much more. Why don't we listen better? Likely because it takes concentration, hard work, patience, the ability to interpret other people's ideas and recap them, as well as the ability to identify non verbal communication like body language. Listening is a complex process and a learned skill. It requires conscious effort, our intellect as well as our emotions.

Listening affects the quality of relationships, whether they are with customers,

friends, co-workers or family members. Ineffective listening can damage relationships as well as degrade the level of trust between you and others. The price of poor listening is lost opportunities.

It is said that more than 60% of all problems among people result from faulty communication. The point of failure during the communication process is often the failure to actively listen, which results in mistakes and misunderstanding. Take a look at the following questions and ask yourself in any apply to you:

1. Are you doing something else while someone is talking?
2. During your conversation, do you wait for a pause, so you can answer?
3. How hard is it for you to stay quiet? Do you say something without thinking first?
4. Are you faking your listening so you can get in your comments?
5. Do you practice selective listening? Do you hear the things you want to hear?
6. Are you aware of messages being sent through body language, facial expressions, eye contact, and vocal intonation?
7. Do you allow background noise or your environment to hinder your ability to listen?
8. Do you listen through filters? When you listen through a filter, you are listen-

ing based on a past experience or belief.

When you judge people by their age, success, or how they look, you build a wall that prevents clear and unrestricted communication and understanding of the message being received.

If any of these behaviors seem familiar, you may be creating barriers that limit your ability to fully listen. Here are some tips to become a more effective listener;

1. Employ silence to demonstrate active listening. Many people only wait a split second to respond to comments or questions. Instead, wait a minimum of three to four seconds. Even count to ensure that enough time has elapsed. This conscious pause makes the speaker feel heard and comfortable enough to talk more, since you are showing a sincere interest. Your silence creates the space that motivates others to share more information. It also gives you enough time to respond thoughtfully and intelligently to the person's specific needs. Besides, look at the words: SILENT and LISTEN. Notice each word shares the exact same letters.
2. Never interrupt while the person is speaking.

What we were taught as children still applies. Enough said!

Con't on Page 8

**Wilmington District News Online** is an official publication authorized under provisions of AR 360-1 published each month by the Wilmington District Public Affairs Office to keep District employees informed of current District news, activities and achievements. Send your submissions for the **Wilmington District News Online** to [henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil](mailto:henry.g.heusinkveld@saw02.usace.army.mil) or [penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil](mailto:penny.schmitt@saw02.usace.army.mil)

District Commander: COL John E. Pulliam, Jr.

Chief, Public Affairs: Penelope Schmitt

Managing Editor: Hank Heusinkveld

# PUBLIC STANDS TO BE COUNTED

By Penny Schmitt

Instead of the rustic town hall in Norman Rockwell's famed "Freedom of Speech" painting from his "Four Freedoms" series, the venue was a state-of-the-art high school auditorium in Chocowinity, North Carolina. But the speakers would have reminded you of the man in that painting, standing up to speak his mind after a long day's work.

Holiday shopping was in full swing with only about a week left to buy gifts. Yet more than 650 people from this rural county took time away from the mall to exercise their right to set their opinions down on the official record. It's a record the Wilmington District is amassing as it considers a major wetlands regulatory permit application by the PCS Phosphate Corporation, who wants to continue mining operations in Beaufort County.

An individual permit action like

this one can require a lengthy review process. The Corps has been coordinating with the applicant, state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations since 2001 to compile information needed for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Both a draft of the EIS, known as the DEIS, and the applicant's proposed project must be submitted to the public for review and comment before a final decision can be reached.

Many of the comments the Corps receives in the public comment period are technical and detailed. They are sent in the form of written documentation. Along with those comments, the Corps also weighs the written and spoken opinions and feelings of people who step up to the microphone in front of government officials as well as their friends and neighbors.

In its regulatory role, the Corps must consider social, economic and environmental issues in light of the overall public interest. Our task is to

weigh the benefits of the applicant's proposal against its potential environmental impacts in an attempt to ensure that any authorized work best balances socio-economic progress with environmental sustainability. That is why it is so important for the Corps to hear from all sides as it weighs an important decision like this one. More than 100 people spoke to give their views—and the speakers demonstrated many concerns.

Some asked that the Corps consider good jobs; others were concerned about water quality in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. A number of speakers compared the impact of mining to the impact of coastal residential developments, and the value of well-paid mine jobs to the value of lower paid service jobs. Citizens spoke in appreciation of the company's support



Chief of Asheville Regulatory Tom Walker and District Commander COL John Pulliam address issues at the meeting. (Photos courtesy Washington Daily News)



More than 650 people showed up to attend the public meeting.

Con't on Page 8

## SHORE PROTECTION CON'T

intervenes and sand is replaced. How does a long-term beach project come about?

“The whole process of designing beaches is formed by a consensus,” said Mike Wutkowski of Coastal, H&H. “It takes at least 10 years from the very start to the finish to get a project authorized and to build a consensus between the desires of local communities and stakeholders. It also includes cost because people who don’t live along the coast don’t always want to pay for shore protection for those who do.”

In addition, Wutkowski said environmental agencies have a voice in a consensus to protect the environment. When sand is moved the impact to the whole shore protection area must be minimized.

“And from the engineering aspects you want to build it with the most effective and least costly way. It’s a political and environmental process that takes a long time.”

Wutkowski said that determining renourishment intervals is mainly an engineering and environmental consideration. “Dollar-wise you can stretch these intervals for a long time, but there are significant portions of your project that will have large escarpments, which impacts environmental concerns like nesting sea turtles or people who want to use the beach for recreation.”

Often the idea arises of using hardened structures that might better thwart the constant pounding of waves on North Carolina’s shore-



**“Shore protection works or we wouldn’t be doing it.” Dr. Greg Williams**

line. But the state has declined such measures because what draws people to the coast is natural aesthetics.

“You want to mimic the natural beaches,” Wutkowski said. “So as an engineer you determine the amount of nourishment intervals that takes into account how the beach will respond and the environmental and recreational considerations.”

From an engineering standpoint hardened structures work in specific areas, but can cause sand to shift to adjacent areas. A softer beach-built type is what’s preferred.

“Man can’t do what Mother Nature can,” Williams said. “The best we can do is nourishment. It’s more natural than structures, but it’s still a man-made approach. I had a professor who once said you can’t stop

erosion. But the problem isn’t erosion. The problem is that people have gone and built where erosion happens and all of a sudden you can see it. Take Masonboro Island for example. Erosion’s going on out there, but you don’t see it as clearly. But if you go to a developed beach to the same place year after year you have a frame of reference. It’s not that there’s necessarily something going on that made the erosion happen. You have something to compare it to. Sometimes the natural inclination is to say ‘What caused this to happen?’ But often that was going on before anything was ever built.”

Along with shore protection comes a significant economic payback. According to Dr. James Houston of the Corps’ Engineer, Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, coastal

Con’t on next page

## SHORE PROTECTION CON'T

tourism and recreation provide “a substantial positive economic benefit in the United States in terms of jobs, income, and governmental revenues.” More than 90 percent of foreign tourism spending, Houston said, is concentrated in coastal states where beaches are the top tourism destinations. Houston cited Miami Beach which reported more tourist visits (21 million) than were made to any National Park Service property. Houston estimates that the federal government receives annually about six times the tax revenues associated with foreign tourism spending at Miami Beach than

it expends to restore beaches for the entire nation.

Shore protection projects require lots of data, not only for engineering purposes, but for cost benefit information as well. Wutkowski developed a numerical program called *Generalized Risk and Uncertainty Coastal* or GRANDUC that estimates the benefits and costs associated with shore protection projects, and provides a measure of the risk and uncertainty associated with them. He said the program is driven by storm water elevation, the associated erosion distances, ero-

sion volumes, and ground elevations. The program calculates damages due to storm erosion, annual erosion, inundation and wave attack. Potential structure, contents, and land loss damages can then be determined along with nourishment costs.

To some, shore protection projects appear as endless battles against the power of Mother Nature. But Williams said as long as people continue build homes or businesses on the coast, shore protection projects will always be needed.



Living along coastal North Carolina comes with a price as evidenced by the destruction caused by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. This view is looking towards the ocean at the intersection of Harper Avenue and Canal Drive at Carolina Beach. (File Photo)

## TWO FROM SAW ENVIRONMENTAL HAND PICKED FOR REGIONAL, NATIONAL WORK

By Hank Heusinkveld

### Doug Piatkowski- A Passion for Protecting Sea Turtles

When Wilmington District marine biologist Doug Piatkowski was a high school student in Boca Raton, Florida, he volunteered to work at *Gumbo Limbo*, an educational environmental complex that had several large tanks with sea turtles. He quickly became interested in sea life, especially sea turtles, and decided to set his college education course to marine biology at UNCW. After receiving a degree in marine biology, he decided to continue his education at the graduate level, studying the impacts of beach nourishment on the nesting success of loggerhead sea turtles.

Just over 10 years later, the UNCW graduate is still dedicated to helping the turtles and other endangered or threatened animals that exist where Corps dredging or beach nourishment projects happen. His latest mission was at Bogue Banks when in mid-January he inspected a turtle deflecting drag head for compliance on the dredge Liberty Island. The drag head, designed by the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), reduces the risk of hopper dredging impacts to sea turtles by gently moving them on the ocean



Doug Piatkowski (center) inspects a part of the dredge Liberty Island for compliance with vessel crewmembers. (Photo by Dave Timpy)

floor out of the way of dredge intakes to help ensure their safety.

“My focus has been on beach-related issues, specifically the environmental effects of dredging and beach nourishment operations,” he said. “My specialty is helping to minimize dredging and beach nourishment impacts to threatened and endangered species, specifically sea turtles.”

Overwhelmed by a string of hurricanes the past few years the Jacksonville District sought Piatkowski's expertise because the Sunshine State had seen an increase in dredge operations to get sand

back its beaches. These operations, however, have had an affect on threatened or endangered species and/or their habitats. To address these potential impacts, a biological assessment must be conducted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. This assessment of the impact on listed species or designated critical habitat is prepared and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

“In the past, individual biological assessments have been developed for each project throughout the state of Florida to address impacts of

## CURRITUCK SOUND CON'T

beach placement activities on threatened or endangered species and/or their habitat.," he said.

Evaluated species include sea turtles, beach mice, shorebirds, manatees and others.

Piatkowski said that in addition to normal beach renourishment events, Florida's hurricanes resulted in 16 emergency beach nourishment projects under a supplemental appropriation from Congress. Restoring 83.4 miles of shoreline required placing approximately 18.5 million cubic yards of sand placed on the beaches. Each project required a costly, time-consuming biological assessment.

To streamline the process and improve efficiency, Piatkowski has been on a regional team to define a regional biological assessment for sand placement for the entire coast of Florida. This collaborative effort also includes the Mobile District, three US Fish and Wildlife Services offices and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The completed assessment will be sent to the USFWS for a biological opinion that addresses 17 shore protection projects, 25 navigation projects and numerous regulatory permit actions involving the placement of sand.

The USFWS biological opinion determines whether a federal action

is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a critical habitat. The opinion also is expected to contain an "Incidental Take Statement" with reasonable and prudent measures that would minimize impacts and allow the activity to proceed if a member of an endangered species is killed.

Piatkowski believes being on-board with the Jacksonville District to lend his expertise can really contribute to the preservation of sea turtles. He feels the regional effort provides more proactive thinking on where things should be heading and how best to address potential impacts on a regional scale.

"There has to be balance. There's a need for shore protection and dredging navigation channels. At the same time you have to consider impacts to the species and try to work to first avoid an impact, then minimize and, if necessary, mitigate the impacts of our actions."

***Editor's Note- The Jacksonville District helped contribute to this article.***

## Owens Adds Planning, Environmental Experience for Battered New Orleans



**Jenny Owens**

Two years ago Jenny Owens completed the rigorous Planning Associate Program at USACE Headquarters. That and her extensive background in environmental issues landed her a slot on a unique national USACE team. That team was tasked to provide recommendations to implement an efficient and effective comprehensive and integrated flood damage reduction and hurricane protection system.

"Right after Hurricane Katrina the New Orleans District was given the authority and funding to get everything in New Orleans back to where it was before Katrina by hurricane

## UP FRONT CON'T

### 3. Be present.

Listen with an open mind, and without filters or judgment. Focus on what the person is saying. This shows your genuine interest.

### 4. Make the person feel heard.

Respond to what the person says by using clarifiers. Rephrase in your own words what the speaker says to give assurance that you both heard and understood. If you need more information, use a clarifier like, "For my own understanding, what you are truly saying is" or "To further clarify this" or "What I am hearing is" Other clarifiers could be: "Help me understand" or "tell me more." When you ask clarifying questions you demonstrate your concern or interest in finding a solution for the person or the specific situation.

### 5. Become a solution-oriented listener.

Spend more time on listening for a solution than you would on the problem.

### 6. Listen for what is not being said.

What is implied is often more important than what is being spoken. If you sense conflicting messages, ask a question to explore the meaning behind the words and identify the real message.

### 7. Resist the temptation to rebut.

We resist information that conflicts with our beliefs. Often, when we disagree, we immediately begin formulating a rebuttal, and that can obscure the message we are receiving. If we are focused on creating a rebuttal, we can't be listening. Rebut later, after you have heard and considered the whole message.

### 8. Listen for Information.

Don't just listen TO information: the noise coming out of the person's mouth. Instead, listen FOR information: look under the words to explore the implied meaning. This prevents you from wrongly judging or misinterpreting the message. Here are four main things to listen for:

\* Listen for what is missing

Listen for concerns the client may have or what is important to them.

\* Listen for what they value.

\* Listen for what they want and need in order to fill in the gaps between what they have now and what they want.

Listening well will open up new opportunities. It allows you to receive and process valuable information you might have missed or neglected otherwise. Invest the time needed to sharpen your listening skills.

Now I want you to leave your comfort zone and apply some of these tips to become a more effective listener. It may make your work environment more productive and a happier place to come every day. There is nothing lost working to be a better listener. It only can help you feel more part of the team.

*Parts of this article were drawn from: Keith Rosen, Profit builders, Skill To Becoming The Most Effective Listener. ■*

## PUBLIC STANDS CON'T

for such diverse activities as a fossil museum, research work the regional University in Greenville and Raleigh, contributions to the American Red Cross. Others were concerned about the impact to important wetlands and waters, and the difficulty in mitigating for those impacts. Some argued that land reclamation was far from being a true restoration. Others hailed restoration acreage as excellent.

The speakers each had two minutes to stand up and be heard. Their addresses to Wilmington District Commander, Col. John E. Pulliam,

Jr. and to the Regulatory and Office of Counsel representatives lasted from 6:30 to just past 11:00 p.m. Every word was captured for the record by a court reporter. The Wilmington District will be continuing to accept written documentation and comments on the permit application and the DEIS until February 9th 2007.

Then comes the tough job of weighing and evaluating the comments, identifying any issues that must be addressed by the Corps, and taking steps to create a final EIS and decision document.

As always, the goal is to find the least environmentally damaging option that is practicable. Will someone be disappointed by the Corps decisions down the road? That's almost inevitable. Yet even those whose wishes are not fully realized will know that their voices were heard and evaluated as the Corps moved through its decision making process.

We are proud to say that we play a part in ensuring the vitality of one of our most precious freedoms—the freedom to speak one's mind and to have our words heard and heeded.■

## NAVIGATION'S HOWARD VARNAM RETIRES AFTER 37 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

For nearly four decades Howard Varnam has explored what seems like just about every nook and cranny on the water in coastal North Carolina. Being on the water has always been in his blood and has been ever since he joined the Wilmington District. Sadly, this salt of the earth Brunswick County native leaves the Corps after 37 years of faithful service.

“Most of my family have been watermen, both on my Mom and my Dad’s sides. I love it. I’ve had the best job in the world!”

Varnam knew in 1970 that he wanted to be near or on the water. He had a good connection to make that happen.

“My father in law, E.V. Gore, retired from Corps from the Dredge Merritt,” he said. “I had just gotten out of school and I guess he was concerned for his daughter’s well being,” he said with a chuckle, “and suggested that I come down to the Corps for an interview. They hired me within two days.”

For the first three years of his career, Varnam started out doing beach erosion surveys with Henry Foreman and Andy Watkins. Soon after, there was a “mass retirement” with all of the survey parties and he was asked to work with the survey unit as a survey party chief.

“I stayed there for 15 years. I then moved into the Dredging Navigation section where I’ve been ever since. And there haven’t been too many navigation projects that I haven’t worked on in North Carolina.”

What Varnam became a member of was a dedicated group of people who tried to find new ways of getting their jobs done. Looking back he said the Wilmington District had state of the art equipment. It may have been cumbersome, but it worked.

“When we first got the survey vessel Gillette we had the first electronics Range Positioning System, RPS. You had to carry the transponders in kits and you

had to physically clip them along the riverbank and carry two twelve-volt car batteries up lighthouses, hangin’ over the rails, to hook up the equipment! I’ve climbed many. And our navigation devices took up the whole deck of the Gillette. That whole thing was nothing but computers. Now you can hold one in your hand! The plotter was about the size of a desk. It’s unbelievable.”

Varnam said even though technology has changed Mother Nature has stayed the same. He believes that technology and simple observation go hand in hand.

“In dredging there’s a lot of room for common sense,” he said. “You can get further with common sense than you can in theory working it out on a piece of paper. Being out on the water you learn shoaling patterns, where the contours are and you can lay out a channel. You have to work with Mother Nature.”

Varnam is leaving his home in Wilmington for a new home he and his wife, Barbara, are building near Ocean Isle. When he leaves the building for good he’s taking 37 years of institutional knowledge along with him. But if folks happen to be desperate for information that he’s accumulated over the years will they still be able to get in touch with him?

“When I retire I’m keeping my cell phone number. If somebody wants to talk all they have to do is call me. I’ll talk to them!” ■



A WWAY TV News reporter interviews Chief of Navigation Howard Varnam near Lockwoods Folly Inlet.

# MLK Breakfast: Judge Faison Urges Community Leaders to Seek the

## *“True Wilmington”*

By Penny Schmitt

Speaking at a Breakfast meeting in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King on Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, District Court Judge James H. Faison III urged federal government employees and local civic leaders to follow in the fallen Civil Rights’ Leader’s footsteps by envisioning and working toward making this community the “True Wilmington” it could become.

The breakfast, traditionally the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District celebration, this year was expanded to include members of the local U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, and local elected officials and public servants. Attendees included Mayor of Wilmington, Bill Saffo, City Council Members Earl Sheridan, Laura Padgett, Pat DeLair, Board of Education members Dorothy DeShields and Nick Rhodes,

and Director of Elderhaus, Linda Pearce.

“We are part of this community, and this is our way of stepping forward to declare our participation more fully and demonstrate our commitment to the ideals Dr. King so powerfully envisioned for our nation,” said District Commander, Col. John E. Pulliam, Jr. “We hope we can continue to be the catalyst for other great occasions like this in the future.”

The District’s own Gloria Price arranged for the expanded participation. Assisting her with the program were EEO Officer Renita McNeill, and Bill Adams, who gave the invocation.

Judge Faison, the keynote speaker for the occasion, recognized that Wilmington is a changed community. “We have gone from the racial massacres of 1898 to the racial sharing of 2007,” he said. Yet he

cautioned that we needed to evaluate and reevaluate. “Don’t be complacent about our victory and accept that as the best we can do, nor resentful about failures and disappointments.”

Aware he was speaking to an audience well-filled with engineers, he pointed out that we have built a bridge, “but as engineers you know bridges are manmade, and they can deteriorate over time. We have to constantly re-look to see if we need to repair or even rebuild.”

Faison urged those gathered to consider ways to help youth reconnect with the past, so that they could understand, appreciate, and dedicate themselves to the opportunities so hard won by those who made sacrifices to open doors for them. Also Pastor of the Byrd’s Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Rose Hill, Faison urged the

## MLK BREAKFAST CON'T

gathering to remember that a holy vision for the future of America and the world was what inspired Dr. King, and should inspire us today.

Also participating in the gathering were Ashley High School's talented Eagle Ensemble, whose selections included an anthem composed especially for a speech deliv-

ered by Mrs. Coretta Scott King at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. ■

**Judge Faison gives his inspirational speech to the crowd during the breakfast, urging those gathered to consider ways to help youth reconnect with the past. Pictured below, he's congratulated by Wilmington City Mayor Bill Saffo as District Commander COL John Pulliam waits his turn to also congratulate Judge Faison.**



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

ROSEMARY BURKE – THE BEAN  
COUNTING BEAD STRINGER

With intense concentration, Rosemary Burke tweaks an ornament that she'll use for a beach-themed necklace.

When Rosemary Burke was about five years old her creative mother prepared a room for her so she and her sister could explore art. Her Mom was a gifted woodworker and seamstress, and Rosemary gleaned what she could from her to find out her own artistic interests.

Today, that interest has blos-

somed into a small business and hobby that allows Rosemary to channel her creative energy into making beautiful, handmade jewelry. After crunching numbers all day at work in Resource Management she heads straight to her very own art room in her home and lets the creative process begin.

"I'm very fashion conscious," she said. "I really enjoy different styles and different looks. For me it's an outlet.

Jewelry's a culmination of my interest in fashion."

Rosemary has a keen eye for combining her wide assortment of jewelry supplies. In this session she's making a necklace with a coastal theme. The main object is a mother of pearl shell that's adorned lime-colored fresh water pearls. Her focus is intense as she slips the tiny beads and other or-

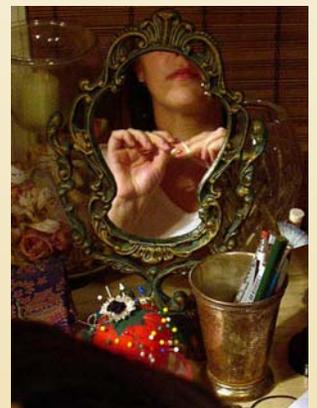
naments onto thin wire, something that has taken her hundreds of hours to perfect. Can people tell the amount of effort she puts into her work?

"Oh yeah! I think people are willing to spend a little more money because my pieces are handmade. Rather than spend 10 bucks on something made in a factory overseas I've found that they'll buy something handmade from someone that they know.

And my jewelry comes with a lifetime guarantee!"

And Rosemary does guarantee her work. Being self taught she's learned that each piece of jewelry

hangs differently and that she makes sure her items don't fall apart before she sells them.



For quality assurance Burke checks each piece of her jewelry.



To keep costs down Burke buys ornaments and beads that look great, but are less expensive.

“There’s been a lot of trial and error. You have to make sure your product is well made. I like to know from my customers when designs don’t work. One of my standards is that if anything abnormal happens to a piece and they’re not satisfied with it I’d like for them to let me know. I

need to know when designs don’t work. I also wear a lot of what I make to ensure that the designs are sound.”

Most of her customers are friends from around town, but she has international clients as well. “My mother in law in England is a huge fan!”

She keeps costs down by finding ornaments that look good, but are inexpensive. She also likes to make specialty custom items.

“I use a lot of pearls that aren’t



Nimble fingers help thread dozens of tiny beads needed to make a complete design.

actually pearls. They’re made from glass and are a whole lot cheaper and come in various colors. Some people have metal allergies, so I’ll place some special orders for their needs. I’ve actually made clip on sterling earrings. Generally, I collect pieces for my creations as I go. If I sell a bunch of jewelry at one time I usually go to the bead store while money’s burning a hole in my pocket!” ■

Story & Photos  
by Hank Heusinkveld

**“Jewelry is the culmination of my interest in fashion.” RB**



Within the confines of her tiny workspace, Rosemary’s able to mix and match hundreds of ornaments to make her handmade jewelry.

# WEBSITE HIGHLIGHTS

WITH JAN WUTKOWSKI

*Editor's note—  
We wish Jan  
good luck as  
she pursues  
another inter-  
est. Thanks  
for all of your  
help and for  
providing us with all of your useful  
information. We'll miss you!*



Jan Wutkowski

## Faces of the Fallen

<http://projects.washingtonpost.com/fallen/>

As the United States continues to operate two different military operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, a number of magazines and newspapers have created sites dedicated to the men and women who have given their lives for such efforts. One very compelling site is “Faces of the Fallen”, developed by staff members at The Washington Post. Utilizing information from various news services, military releases, and family members, they have created this photographic database of the servicepersons who have died in these conflicts. Visitors can browse through the database as they see fit, or also view service members by age, year of death, home state, or military branch.

## WW II Military Maps

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/maps/wwii/>

Maps have always been integral to military conflicts and warfare, and

many of these documents are highly prized by collectors and military historians. The American Memory Project at the Library of Congress recently created this digital collection of World War II situation maps from the years 1944 and 1945. Beginning with the D-Day Invasion, the maps provide information about troop positions throughout Western Europe, along with important graphical representations of various landmarks within the military landscape.

## Chernobyl

<http://www.chernobyl1.info/>

Brought online in 1978, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was considered a model plant throughout the USSR. Eight years later, that same plant experienced an explosion and meltdown that had disastrous consequences for local residents. This terrible incident caused serious damage to the global cause of establishing nuclear power as a viable alternative source of energy. This very thorough and well-designed site serves as an excellent gateway to information about the events surrounding that date, and more importantly, about the long-term effects of the event and the organizations that are intimately concerned with these affairs.

## Geospatial One Stop

<http://gos2.geodata.gov/wps/portal/gos>

There are many federal agencies involved with the creation of maps, and while most people probably automatically think of the United States Geological Survey, there are numerous

groups within various agencies creating thousands of maps that draw on the strengths of the field of geographic information systems. This one-stop location allows users to draw on all of these resources. To start, visitors can use the basic search engine that asks them to fill in the “What” (such as a river or lake) or the “Where”. After filling out one of these forms, the search engine will return all the available map materials associated with each place and then refine their search as they see fit. Visitors can also browse through any number of special interest maps, such as those related to homeland security, recreation areas, fire mapping, and historical specialties such as those that detail the route of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

## ONE FOR FUN!

### Wired Science

<http://www.pbs.org/kcet/wiredscience/>

PBS has been exploring a number of new partnerships, and one of their latest is this collaborative effort with *Wired*, the popular science and technology magazine. Produced in collaboration with PBS member station KCET in Los Angeles, the program is designed to bring an “irreverent attitude” to this type of programming, and this website is a nice way to get acquainted with their endeavors. On the homepage, visitors can learn about the hosts and also watch the pilot episode of the program. The content of the site is primarily divided into sections titled “Vaporware”, “Geek Beat”, and “Conversations.”

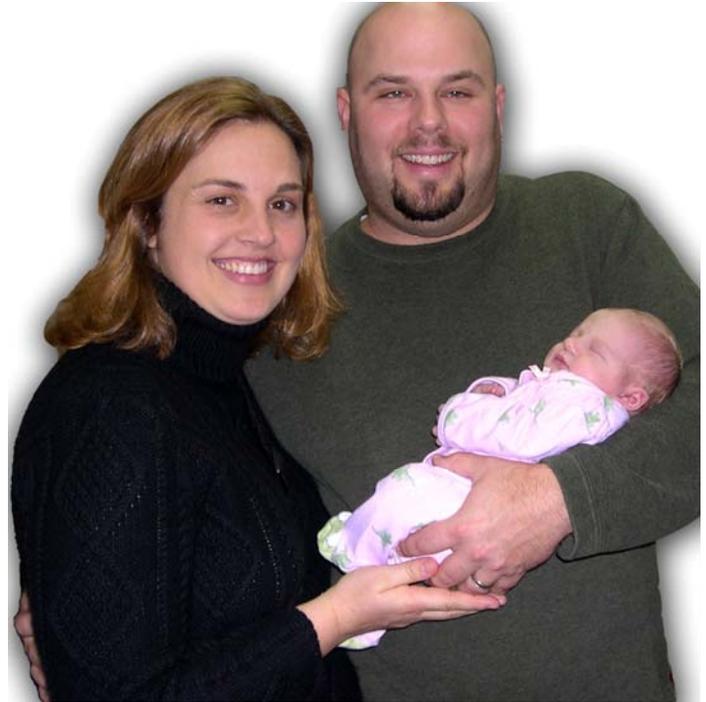
## REACHING OUT & CORPS FAMILY NEWS

### REACHING OUT

On Dec. 11th, **Dana Matics** spoke to 80 Exploris Middle School students about Falls Dam and downstream water quality. The students were studying water systems and how they affect our everyday lives. She also spoke on January 16<sup>th</sup> to a group of 12 local retired gentlemen about the history behind Falls Dam and how it's operated presently. A few had been around when land acquisition occurred and even had land purchased from their families.

**Major Rob Hilliard** (below) met with cub scouts on January 8 when Den Master **Mitch Hall** had his cub den visit the Wilmington District to discuss flags and badges. Major Hilliard assisted in explaining ceremonies

and types of flags and badges. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the information Mitch and MAJ Hilliard presented and all the different types of flags, emblems and banners we display in our Main Conference Room.



### CORPS FAMILY NEWS

Lexa Ann McCorcle, daughter of Sarah and **Justin McCorcle**, (above right) was born 16 Jan at 12:42 PM. Lexa greeted the world at a healthy seven pounds, two ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

**Gloria Price's** daughter, Angela Jackson, was recently hired by the Reston Community Hospital, Reston, Virginia, as an Out-patient Medical Coder. She has a BS in Business Administration which was instrumental in her being hired.

Kent Sholar, brother of **Sherrel**

**Sholar Bunn**, was promoted Dec 06 - to Deputy Chief of the Raleigh Police Department. Kent recently completed a 12-week assignment at the FBI National Academy and has 23 years of extensive law enforcement experience. Sherrel is a very proud sister!

On Dec 15<sup>th</sup> **Robert Dennis'** daughter Rachael graduated with honors with a degree in Elementary Education from Virginia Tech. She is staying there to pursue a Masters degree. And his son Adam graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in Clarkesville, VA on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> with a degree in business.

**Johnie A. Alton**, 85, a retired Wilmington District construction engineer, died January 28<sup>th</sup>. He served 32 years with the District.



## SAW ENVIRONMENTAL CON'T

season 2006,” Owens said. “For the most part they completed that task on schedule. The next task was to get everything to a 100-year level of protection ASAP. So they are so focused on execution that they don’t have the time to go through the typical Corps planning process which would help them with sequencing of projects and providing longer term solutions rather than just going out and starting to build.”

Owens soon became a part of a team that had a short time- just 60 days- to organize its thoughts, gather an overwhelming amount of data, compile it into a usable form and provide recommendations.

“The New Orleans District couldn’t afford to do a lengthy because the city needs something fast.”

Owens admits that at first challenge that she and her teammates faced was how to get started.

“My first impression...what are they asking us to do?” she stated. “I was in a room with SESers and headquarters-level people. I thought, ‘What have I gotten myself into?!’ After numerous presentations over two days I saw the big picture of work in New Orleans. They had been working seven days a week with 16- plus hours a day.”

The reality of Katrina’s wrath immediately set in when Owens and

her team went on numerous site visits to gather information.

“I knew initially the city was devastated, but I really expected more progress of building it back than I saw. The downtown area appeared okay, but a lot of establishments were still closed. There were whole neighborhoods with nobody in them. I was just amazed at all of the destruction that’s still just sitting there. Lots of signs in yards that read ‘Do Not Bulldoze’. They’ve got a long way to go.”

What helped make sense for compiling all of the data was the next step.

“We developed a matrix to help program and project managers figure out what areas that they were working on had the highest priority. This report included a matrix to help them develop sequencing. All work in new Orleans is being

done an acquisition plan and they are building as fast as they can because that’s what they were tasked to do by Congress. We looked at how they were doing it by evaluating efficiency effectiveness, public acceptability and other factors.”

After three trips to New Orleans Owens said she is still amazed at the amount work she and her team got done in such a short amount of time. She added it was stressful, but nothing compared to what some New Orleans District members go through every day.

“There was a New Orleans District economist on our team whose parents were displaced for a while. Lots of people like that... in-laws and large families all piled into one house...while you’re waiting for your house to be rebuilt. On top of that the majority of New Orleans District folks are working 16-hour days. It’s very sobering.” ■



Scenes like this area in the lower 9th Ward are still common in certain parts of New Orleans. (File)