

DISTRICT DIGEST

Vol. 13 / Issue 1 / Feb-Mar 2024

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES

We at the Brunswick Sewer District (BSD) pride ourselves in creating an enjoyable, safe, and positive work environment. This is evident by the fact that the majority of our employees have over 20 years of experience (and as much as 40 years!) and we only rarely have job openings, of which the vast majority of are due to retirements.

That's what makes the past few months so unique. In November of 2023 we filled a position that was vacated by retirements at the end of 2022. In December of 2023 our long time senior operator, Gerry Bibber retired. In January of 2024 another long time senior operator, Tom Mason, also retired. It will be a huge challenge to replace both Tom and Gerry. Their work ethic and job knowledge is commendable. We are very thankful for the work they have done over the past three decades.

That backstory brings us to the spring of 2024 where we find ourselves with three new operators. The BSD is fortunate to have found three great candidates who are eager to learn and become skilled operators as Tom and Gerry were. They have big shoes to fill, and we know they are looking forward to the challenge. We'd like to introduce you to Konnor Scarponi, Kyle Tobias, and Keith Good (apparently having a first name starting with the letter K is now a condition of employment).

Konnor Scarponi

Favorite food: Chicken and Rice/Steak.

Hobbies: Bodybuilding, Playing Basketball.

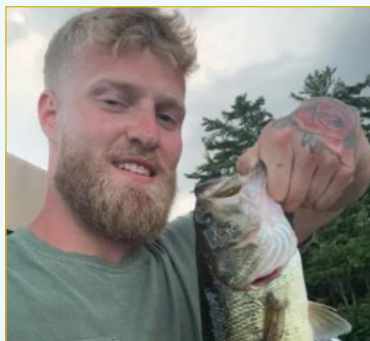
Favorite sports teams: Boston Celtics.

Typical Saturday night: Playing with my Daughter Kinsley.

Wants to be when grown up: Head Supervisor at the Brunswick Sewer District.

Likes about working at the BSD: My team and how supportive they are. I love working with everyone I work with.

If he had a million dollars: I'd put it into savings or invest in CD's and keep working hard.



Kyle Tobias

Favorite food: Pepperoni Za (Pizza).

Hobbies: Playing guitar and riding motorcycles.

Favorite sports teams: Tampa Bay Buccaneers (Football) and Boston for all other sports.

Typical Saturday night: Depends on the time of year. In the winters I'm playing shows with the band however in the summers if I'm not playing shows then I'm definitely out on the Harley.

Wants to be when grown up: Sipping fancy named mixed drinks in Fiji with my toes in the sand and not a care in the world.

Likes about working at the BSD: I haven't been here long enough to fully see all of the great things BSD has to offer. I will say I have been welcomed with open arms by so many of the staff members here at BSD. It really shows you how much each person is individually recognized by BSD. You are somebody here and that's one thing I like so far.

If he had a million dollars: Typical man stuff ya know? Pay off the house, get some good vehicles that don't break down every two weeks, maybe a little upgrade on the motorcycle, but most importantly set my children up with a solid financial situation where they could make something for themselves, really give them a leg up in life.

Keith Good

Favorite food: Cheeseburger. Whatever's in front of me.

Hobbies: Side by side ATVing, fish, hunt, ice fish, just about everything!

Favorite sports teams: I'll watch a little football and some racing.

Typical Saturday night: Sitting home and watching TV. Low key.

Wants to be when grown up: Still undetermined. It's too late to grow up. Growing up is no fun.

Likes about working at the BSD: Haven't even started yet but I'm excited about everything. The workweek, retirement, insurance, workers. It's everything and it's different.

If he had a million dollars: Semi-retire. It doesn't go far anymore, but it would probably be enough for me.



2024 Employee Anniversaries

The district has had loyal employees for many years. In 2021 two employees retired with a combined service of 67 years. December 2023 and January 2024 saw two more employees retire after 50 years of combined service. We are proud of the dedication and work ethic of our employees. Our current staff:

Ernest Bergerson II	<i>Director of Collection Systems</i>	40 years
Jennifer Nicholson	<i>Operations & Compliance Manager</i>	30 years
Matthew Densmore	<i>Director of Treatment Operations</i>	30 years
Michael Jouver	<i>Director of Pumping Systems</i>	29 years
Jason Prout	<i>Senior Laboratory Technician</i>	27 years
Darcy Dutton	<i>Accounts Specialist</i>	21 years
Daniel Munsey	<i>Safety Coordinator/Operator</i>	17 years
Lisa True	<i>Staff Accountant</i>	16 years
Lorraine Caron	<i>Finance Manager</i>	15 years
Robert Pontau Jr	<i>General Manager</i>	14 years
Bonnie Shippen	<i>Accounts Specialist</i>	12 years
Erik Walling	<i>GIS Coordinator/Operator</i>	6 years
Brandon Elwell	<i>Chief of Plant Maintenance</i>	5 years
Bryan Chonko	<i>Operator</i>	2 years
Konnor Scarponi	<i>Operator</i>	1 year
Kyle Tobias	<i>Operator</i>	1 year
Keith Good	<i>Operator</i>	Started January 2024

Thank you all for your service to the district!



FUN FACTS FROM THE SEWER GUY

- After the implementation of the Federal Clean Water Act in 1972 and the associated wastewater system improvements, the number of waterways meeting water quality goals for fishing and swimming has roughly doubled.
- The U.S. Government Accountability Office estimates that water and wastewater utilities are not generating enough revenue from user rates to cover the full cost of their service. As a result, several utilities are starting to experience the effects of chronically postponed maintenance from funding shortfalls.
- In 2006, U.S. infrastructure was #6 on the World Economic Forum's ranking of best national infrastructure systems. By 2019, the ranking had fallen to #13.
- It has been estimated that more than \$180 billion is needed to repair or replace U.S. water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. Investing in water infrastructure generally produces healthier communities, reduces water pollution, and is estimated to directly generate nearly 1.9 million jobs. An additional 800,000 jobs will come from increased economic activity in related sectors.

Go to <https://www3.erie.gov/dsm/interesting-facts> for more fun facts.

REMINDERS

When experiencing a sewer system problem, please contact the District **FIRST**. The 24-hour emergency number is **207-729-0148**. Make sure your plumber calls Maine Natural Gas before any tools are placed in your line.

Thinking of doing some yard work? Before your contractor digs, call DIG SAFE (1-888-344-7233). It's free and it's the law.

Sewer bills may be paid by:

Credit card or by e-check online, with a fee charged. (Fee is 2.75% of transaction amount with a \$1.95 minimum. Fee for e-check \$1) Please visit our website www.brunswicksewer.org for instructions.

Automatic deduction from your checking or savings account (No fee charged). Go to our website and select the "I Want To" tab then "Set Up Direct Payment". Complete the form and mail it to us at 10 Pine Tree Road, Brunswick, ME 04011 to complete the set up. **Do not send in paperwork as a form of payment for your current bill; we need to process the set up with the banking institution prior to the billing.**

Please like us on Facebook. Follow us @brunswicksewer on Twitter and Instagram.

PLEASE NOTE

Changes to our Outside Watering policy are coming to, most likely, be effective January 1, 2025. Go to our website www.brunswicksewer.org for current updates.

We will be moving to a new credit card processing system sometime in 2024. Again, please visit our website for current updates.