

# inTRA

Newsletter of the Trinity River Authority of Texas

Winter 2016/2017



**Our shared vision**

The Trinity River Authority of Texas is an innovative, adaptive leader, enriching the Trinity basin as a resource for Texans.

**The TRA mission**

The Trinity River Authority's mission is to promote conservation, reclamation, protection and development of the natural resources of the river basin for the benefit of the public.



## *In This Issue*

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Taking the lead in its service areas has driven TRA's actions and efforts for the last 60-plus years.

### **4 2016 ART CONTEST WINNERS**

The artistry of the entries for TRA's 2016 art contest is colorful, creative and inspiring. It makes sense to reach out to the next generation of water users to help them understand their role in protecting our finite water resources.

### **7 SAYING THANK YOU**

Words are sometimes not enough, but words that include a thank-you note and your name help drive the sincerity home.

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From giving back to adding skills, TRA is all in.

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TRA's people strike a balance when it comes to work and homelife. See for yourself what's been going on.

### **14 2017 BUDGET NEWS**

The action doesn't take place if no one is minding the store.

## ***Upcoming 2017 Holidays***



Memorial Day - May 29



Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 23



Independence Day - July 4



Day after Thanksgiving - Nov. 24



Labor Day - Sept. 4

# Time to ruminate, *recharge for what's next*

Like other years before it, 2017 arrived as scheduled. Before it's over, it will pop, clang and whiz right by us like 2016.

The Trinity River Authority started 2016 with lofty goals that required TRA staff members to engage in work with our customers, congressional delegation and leaders. We didn't really know whether we would accomplish all of our goals going into 2016, but we knew that if we didn't do the work, nothing would happen. The status quo is not an option for TRA, so we work to position ourselves strategically and to stay in a state of readiness.

A lot of what was in the works came together in December. TRA was finally able to get language passed in federal law that would allow us to pay for the storage at Joe Pool Lake at a reduced cost (see photos on p. 10). The Senate and the House of Representatives each passed the Water Infrastructure Investment in the Nation Act of 2016, which reduced TRA's interest obligation related to the construction of Joe Pool Lake. This action will go a long way toward using the lake to benefit and enrich the North Texas area. This major accomplishment also eliminates our customers' obligation to pay for that storage. It took years to get this done, and to see it happen was sort of like making a game-winning field goal. And because we came out on the winning side, we don't have to start over again this year!

Another major accomplishment in 2016 was entering into an agreement with the city of Houston for the annual sale of 200,000 acre-feet of water from Lake Livingston. This agreement is in line with provisions in Texas' state water plan. Looking ahead, Houston will now have access to the water when it is needed in the future. Using innovative contracting, we were able to, at the same time, make the agreement a vehicle for us to pay off our liability with the city of Houston for its in-full payment for the lake operations at Lake Livingston for the last 50 years. These accomplishments are directly related to what was set forth



## General Manager J. Kevin Ward

in our 2013-2018 strategic plan. The goal was to eliminate our two unfunded liabilities, and we took care of both of them last year; they were in excess of \$80 million each. Our next related move will position TRA to be able to fully pay its part of Lake Livingston's operations.

### *Unified next steps*

TRA's forward focus will include continued regional planning, expansion of our services and improvement of our use of technology. Additionally, this year will include increased actions related to operations, budget and staffing, career development and planning for attrition. A key ancillary task will be to strengthen salaries and benefits to help people see a future with TRA that allows them to stay, grow and be a part of efforts that are vital to the growth, health and stability of our service areas. That task will also help us prepare to move forward with the deployment of new technologies that will keep TRA positioned for new opportunities. TRA is a regional leader in planning for water and wastewater treatment, distribution and services

## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

and brokering major transactions and projects. Those projects include things such as reuse and the management of beneficial biosolids. The spring issue of inTRA will cover this in detail.

Growth in our service areas means that TRA has to be strategic in planning for increases in the treatment and use of water and wastewater. As we improve our process for treating wastewater generated by residents, visitors and commuters alike, we will try to reduce our carbon footprint and expand the use of the byproducts of wastewater. Part of that expansion may be in the form of compost and fertilizer products for uses beyond beneficial land application. Related budget information is on p. 14.

Our direction for 2017 will be unified. Pulling together various pieces that we have been building on, such as

infrastructure for science, technology development, career development and training, will tie everything together. This unified focus will help prepare the organization to develop its strategic plan for the next five years.

So this is a year to look back at what we have accomplished and look forward to the low-hanging fruit that we've created as we make room for more. An added dynamic this year will be the confirmation by the Senate of new board members recently nominated for appointment by the governor. When that happens, TRA staff members will devote time to orient them, educate them and bring them up to speed.

I feel confident that TRA's staff members are fired up and ready!

*Wolf Creek Park is waiting for you ...  
Come out and enjoy Lake Livingston!*



Wolf Creek Park



March-November

# Trinity River Authority of Texas

# Don't trash our water.

# ART contest



**Pictured left to right: Lizbeth Ramirez, 3rd-grade winner; Claire Cochran, 8th-grade, grand prize winner; Daphanie Ho, 7th-grade winner; Zharia McGee, 1st-grade winner; Sonya Villalobos, 4th-grade winner; Amy Tran, 6th-grade winner and Alexa De la Torre, 5th-grade winner.**

The Trinity River Authority congratulates the winners of the 2016 art contest. The winners, including their grade and school, are as follows: Grand prize winner, Claire Cochran, eighth grade, Providence Christian School, Dallas; Daphanie Ho, seventh grade, Danny Jones Middle School, Mansfield ISD; Amy Tran, sixth grade, Adams Elementary, Arlington ISD; Alexa De la Torre, fifth grade, Calliet Elementary, Dallas ISD; Sonya Villalobos, fourth grade, Adams Elementary, Arlington ISD; Lizbeth Ramirez, third grade, John Haley Elementary, Irving ISD; Megan Li, second grade, Denton Creek Elementary, Coppell ISD; Zharia McGee, first grade, Waterford Oaks Elementary, Cedar Hill ISD.

The contest was open to all first through eighth grade students in TRA's service area. The area includes the following Texas counties: Anderson, Chambers, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone,

Henderson, Houston, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Navarro, Polk, San Jacinto, Tarrant, Trinity and Walker. The theme for 2016 was "Don't trash our water." More than 1,200 entries were received. The contest is part of TRA's outreach to youth to help teach them about the importance of protecting our water supply from pollution, keeping our wastewater system free of trash and conserving our limited water resources.

All winners and their teachers were invited to be publicly recognized during TRA's October board of directors meeting. The grand prize winner's artwork was recreated on T-shirts that she was able to share with her entire eighth-grade class, her teacher, family and school administrators. All grade-level winners received copies of their artwork printed onto notecards, certificates and a 2017 calendar that featured all of the winners.

2016 ART CONTEST WINNERS



**Claire Cochran**  
**Grand Prize**  
**Winner**

*Providence Christian  
School of Texas, Dallas*



**Daphanie Ho**  
**Seventh Grade**

*Danny Jones  
Middle School,  
Mansfield ISD*



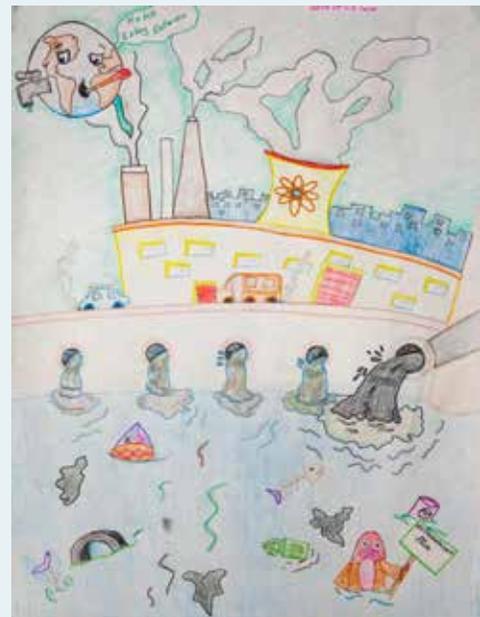
**Amy Tran**  
**Sixth Grade**

*Adams Elementary,  
Arlington ISD*



**Alexa De la Torre**  
**Fifth Grade**

*Calliet Elementary,  
Dallas ISD*





**Sonya Villalobos**  
**Fourth Grade**

*Adams Elementary,  
Arlington ISD*



**Lizbeth Ramirez**  
**Third Grade**

*John Haley Elementary,  
Irving ISD*



**Megan Li**  
**Second Grade**

*Denton Creek Elementary, Coppell ISD*



**Zharia McGee**  
**First Grade**

*Waterford Oaks  
Elementary,  
Cedar Hill ISD*



# THAN

for all of your ha



CHERYL ABBOTT  
MARCO ACOSTA  
THRESA AGUAYO  
CECIL ALEC Jr.  
FIONA ALLEN  
LISA ALLEN  
SHERRY ALLEN  
RACHEL AMARO  
CYRUS ANGLIN  
OSCAR ARIZPE  
BRUCE AUSTIN  
SHARON AUTRY  
BOB AYENSU  
SKIP BACON  
TODD BACON  
STEVE BAINTER  
DONALD BAKER  
THOMAS BAKER  
JULIE BALL  
VINCENT BALL  
SHAWN BALLARD  
MISTY BARNETT  
JERRY BARRERA  
RICK BASHAM  
KEITH BASS  
MIKE BECK  
BRADFORD BEECHING  
BARRY BEESON  
ROB BENDKOWSKI  
JOHN BENNETT  
TREY BENTON  
APEKSHYA BHATTARAI  
ERIC BLACKMON  
LUIS BLANCO  
JEFF BLANKENSHIP  
MELVIN BLAYLARK  
JAY BOWEN Jr.  
JOHNNY BRADSHAW  
RICHARD BRASHEAR  
RICHARD BRAZIER  
DAVID BREWSTER  
ROB BRITTON  
DAVID BROWN  
JOJO BROWN  
HARRELL BROWN  
GENE BROWNLOW  
CECIL BRYANT  
ROBERT BURCHETT III  
KEVIN BURKS

TERRY BURKS  
MARIE BURNS  
DALE BURROW  
JAKE BURWELL  
KYLE BUSSINGER  
DARRIN BUTTON  
ANCEL BYNAUM  
JERI CALLAHAN  
BELEN CAMPOS  
TONYA CANGEMI  
MELODY CANNON  
CHARLES CARDER  
GARY CARR  
LUCY CARRASCO  
MARK CARTER  
PAUL CARTER  
ALBERT CASTOR  
DOUG CASTRILLO  
LAURA CAUGHEY  
JIMMY CHADWICK Jr.  
JORGE CHAHEINE  
ROBERT CHAMBERS  
MICHAEL CHANDLER  
JOSEPH CHAPMAN  
BOZ CHAVEZ  
MIGUEL CHAVEZ  
JOANN CLAPPER  
CAROL CLAYBROOK  
PATTY CLEVELAND  
GLENN CLINGENPEEL  
WILLIE COBB  
DEWAYNE COBURN  
JAMES COLEMAN  
JASON COLES  
GERALD COLLINS  
LARRY COLQUITT  
JOHNATHAN COMER  
STEVE CONWAY  
JASON COOPER  
JAMES COUCH  
MALCOLM COWDIN  
MICHELLE CRITZ  
CRAIG CROWDER  
BILL CYRUS  
STEVEN DANIELS  
SHERRIE DAO  
AL DAVENPORT  
RAY DAVIDSON  
DARRELL DAVIS

DEBBIE DAVIS  
KELLY DAVIS  
SOPHIE DAVIS  
SUSAN DAVIS  
CARLOS DELACRUZ  
RICHARD DENNIE  
WENDY DERDEYN  
MARTA DOBKOWSKA  
HAYDEN DODSON  
NICK DONS  
CHERYLYN DOUGLASS  
STACIE DOWELL  
MIKE DROUIN  
JOHN DURBIN  
BRAD DYESS  
TERRI EARLS  
MIKE EASLEY  
THOMAS EASO  
CODY EDMONDSON  
PEGGY ENGLISH  
CHRISTINE EPPS  
ANDREW ESQUIBEL  
ERNIE FINK  
BRUCE FOWLER  
DEBBIE FOXWORTH  
KEVIN FREGIA  
MICHELLE FRY  
MARY GAITHER  
SEAN GALBRAITH  
GEORGE GARCIA  
HECTOR GARCIA  
RUSSELL GARLAND  
DEBBIE GARRETT  
SHARON GATTIS  
JERRY GEBHARDT  
JOE GEDVILLE Jr.  
BRUCE GEORGE  
JARROD GIBBENS  
JULIAN GIBSON  
TURK GIBSON  
WAYNE GLADDEN  
JESUS GOMEZ-LONGORIA  
CHRIS GONZALES  
DANIEL GONZALEZ  
EDDIE GRANT

MIKE GRIESS  
JEFF GRIFFIN  
VIDAL GUERRA  
RUSS GURSS  
TROY GUTER  
JOE HAGER Jr.  
BARRON HALL  
SUZANNE HAMM  
SCOTT HAMPTON  
SHERYL HANKS  
JAMESON HAPNER  
MICHELLE HARLAN  
CRYSTAL HARNESS  
BRANDON HARRIS  
DAVID HARRIS  
CRAIG HARVEY  
SANDRINE HATCHEU  
DAVID HAUER  
ARTHUR HENDERSON  
BILLY HILL  
DAVID HILL  
SCOTT HILL  
JIMMY HINES  
HAROLD HINKLE  
TANIA HO  
AARON HOFF  
JOSEPH HOHMAN  
BILL HOLDER  
JERRY HOLLAND  
LANCE HOLLISTER  
KEVIN HOLMES  
PHILLIP HOLQUIN  
CHAD HOLTON  
STEPHEN HONZA  
JOHNNY HOOKS  
PAUL HOPKINS  
JULIE HOPPE  
MARK HRABAL  
CARL HUCKLEBERRY

RUDDIE HUDSON  
AMADOR HUERTA Jr.  
RUSTY HUFF  
ANDREW HUFFMAN  
STEVE HUNT Jr.  
JULIE HUNT  
KELLY HUNTER  
TAYLOR HUYNH  
ZACHARY JACKSON  
TOM JACOBS  
MATT JALBERT  
LUCAS JANISZEWSKI  
KYLE JOHNSON  
DAVID JOHNSON  
CONNIE JONES  
ERIC JONES  
GENIE JONES  
TRENTON JONES  
VANASSA JOSEPH  
RAUDEL JUAREZ  
FATMA KARIM  
PRERANA KARKI  
KIMBERLY KAYSER  
RYAN KIKER  
ANGELA KILPATRICK  
JASON KINYA  
EDDIE KNIGHT  
MIKE KNIGHT  
WHITNEY KORENSEK  
STEPHANIE KRAMER  
BUTCH LANDRUS  
LISA LANTRIP  
RONALD LAW  
SHANE LAWSON  
STEVE LEE

# THANK YOU

## for your hard work in 2016



MIKE LEIST  
CLAUD LESLY Jr.  
BILLY LEWIS  
BERND LINN  
VANESSA LIU  
KELLY LOGSDON  
AGUSTIN LONGORIA Jr.  
JORDAN LOPEZ  
JOE LOREDO  
DAWN LOVE  
BRANDON LOWRANCE  
DAVID LUTHER  
RANDY LYONS  
DAVID MACELVAINE  
ED MACH  
ALISON MACKEY  
MARTY MADARAS  
OMAR MAISONET  
JAMES MALLORY  
WEB MANGHAM  
AGNES MARFO  
LISA MARIMIRA  
KENDALL MARION  
MAGGIE MARTIN  
MARCOS MARTINEZ  
MARIO MARTINEZ  
OLIVIA MBA  
SID MCCAIN  
ALBERT MCCALL Jr.  
RÉMY MCCOOL  
JAMES MCDONALD  
CJ MCKERNAN  
KELLY MCKNIGHT  
MITCHEL MCMILLIAN  
DOUG MCMURRIN  
BOBBY MENDOZA

WILLIAM MENUCCI  
GARY MIKSCH  
GREG MIKUS  
BUTCH MILLER  
MICHAEL MILLER  
MICHAEL MINKLEY  
MARCUS MONTBRIAND  
DREW MOORE  
DANIEL MOORE  
JENNIFER MOORE  
BERNIE MOOZHAYIL  
LUPE MORENO-VILLAGOMEZ  
DAVID MORGAN  
JIMMIE MORGAN  
TIM MORGAN  
DOUG MORRIS  
KRISTIE MUNOZ  
ZACHERY MUNOZ  
JEAN NASH  
MIGUEL NAVA  
MONIQUE NAVA  
CURTIS NAYLOR  
BRIAN NEAL  
MIKE NEAL  
MICHAEL NEELEY  
RON NEWMAN Jr.  
KENNY NGUYEN  
TINA NGUYEN  
JONATHAN O'BRYANT  
DAVID ODOM  
KEATON OGDEN  
MARK ORBECK  
MICHELLE ORBECK  
JOHN OWENS  
NICK PADILLA  
ARMANDO PALACIOS  
ERIC PALMER  
GIO PARRILLA  
MRUGEN PATEL

VICTOR PATEL  
CHRISTOPHER PATIN  
GENE PAUL  
TRACY PAUL  
MADHU PENMETSA  
EVAN PETERS  
SHARON PHELPS  
MIKE PIFER  
DAVID POOLE  
ROLAND POPHAM Jr.  
BRENDA PORTER  
RICHARD POSTMA  
STEVE PRICE  
KIM PROBASCO  
MIKE QUERRY  
JACOB QUINTERO  
YESHA RAI  
PETER RAIMAN  
MARCO RAMIREZ  
DENNIS RANDLE  
CLAUDINE RANK  
CHARLES RANKIN III  
JERRY RANKINS  
BOBBY RAY  
CLASSIC RAYFORD  
JESSE REED  
MARK REEVES  
STEVE RENFRO  
JOHN RICE  
STEPHEN RIVERS  
ROSANNE ROBERTSON  
CYNTHIA ROBINSON  
THOMAS ROBINSON  
VALDO ROBLES  
JOSH ROGERS  
JUAN ROMAN  
MIKE ROSER  
STACY ROSETTA  
DAVE ROSNAGEL  
MITCHELL RYAN  
CHRIS SALAZAR  
ROSARIO SALDIVAR  
ERIK SANDERS  
MELISSA SANIUK

JUAN SANTOS  
JEFFREY SAUNIER  
GARY SAVANYU  
MICHAEL SCAMP  
GREG SCHNEIDER  
MARK SCHOONOVER  
STEPHANIE SCHULTZ  
DAVID SCOTT  
JAY SHANNON  
EMMA SHEARD  
JOE SHEETS  
CALEB SHELLY  
TROY SHELTON  
MARINA SHEPELEV  
SUJATA SHERCHAN  
DOUG SHORT  
SHALYN SHOURDS  
GARY SHREVE  
CATHY SIEGER  
JIMMIE SIMS  
JR SIVERNELL  
IAN SKEEN  
PHILLIP SKELLY  
HOWARD SLOBODIN  
BRANDON SMIDDY  
DANNY SMITH  
GARY SMITH  
CAMERON SMITH  
JERRY SMITH  
JASON SMITH  
SALLY SNYDER  
RICKY SOSA  
HANK SPIER  
JIM SPURLOCK  
AMY STELTER  
MARK STEPHENS  
JOSEPH STEPHENS  
PEGGY STEWART  
JESSIE STOCKS  
JOHN STOCKTON  
KEITH STONE  
ADDISON STUCKY  
DANNY SUTTON  
ROBERT SWEET  
CURTIS TADLOCK  
RON TAMADA  
BILL TATUM  
CARION TAYLOR  
NATALIE TAYLOR

ALEX TEBOH  
MARK THIGPEN  
BRAD THOMAS  
JAMES THOMAS  
MARY THOMAS  
DONALD THOMPSON  
HEATHER THOMPSON  
POLLY THORNTON  
BUZZ THORNTON  
JONATHAN TOWNSEND  
TERESA TRAN  
DON TUCKER  
KEN TYWATER  
PEDRO URBINA  
SHERRI VAN DER WEGE  
LINDA VICE  
TONY WALKER  
JACK WANG  
KEVIN WARD  
JOHN WARDELL  
MARK WATERS  
DIANNA WATKINS  
LEWIS WATSON  
MELANIE WEIKUM  
JENNIFER WHITAKER  
CHARLIE WHITE  
NANCY WHITLOCK  
CLAYTON WHITMIRE  
LESLY WILKINSON  
SCOTT WILKS  
CLIFF WILLIAMS III  
HOWARD WILLIAMS  
MASON WILSON  
MICHAEL WILSON  
STEVEN WILSON  
QUINTIN WINTERS  
CHRISTA WOOD  
DAVID WOODCOCK Jr.  
BRANDON WOODDELL  
CLIFF WOODS  
JENNA WOOLEY  
MICHAEL WOOLSEY  
JAMES WRIGHT  
HONG WU  
ELVIS YOUNG Jr.  
JACOB YOUNG  
MIKE YOUNG  
MICHAEL ZAPATA

# Q & A

You have

## Questions

We have

## Answers

***Q: Does TRA manage the Trinity River Vision and the Trinity River Corridor Project?***

A: No, and TRA gets asked that question all the time. TRA's main business is providing water supply, water and wastewater treatment and distribution services to our customers within the nearly 18,000-square-mile Trinity river basin. TRA is the largest wholesale provider of wastewater treatment services in Texas. TRA also serves as a sponsor for federal water projects and is responsible for developing and maintaining a basin-wide master plan. A copy of the latest plan can be found on our website at [www.trinityra.org](http://www.trinityra.org) under the "Basin Planning" tab.

***Q: Does TRA own and operate any lakes or rivers?***

A: Yes, TRA completed the construction of Lake Livingston in 1969. The lake is the largest single-purpose reservoir in Texas. Its 455 miles of shoreline touch San Jacinto, Polk, Trinity and Walker counties. The lake serves as a water supply reservoir for the city of Houston. Houston has rights to 70 percent of the water in the lake and TRA has rights to the remaining 30 percent.



***Q: Is Lake Livingston used for recreational purposes?***

A: Yes, it is. The lake is a great place for boating, fishing and other water-related recreation. Check out p. 3 for more information about Wolf Creek Park, which is located on the lake.

***Q: How do I find out the water level in Lake Livingston?***

A: Visit TRA's website. The information is on the home page. Just click on the tab labeled "Lake Information."

## Elected Officials at TRA



During the regular board of directors meeting in October, the board honored Reps. **Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX, 30 District)**, **Joe Barton (R-TX, 6th District)** and Sens. **John Cornyn (R-TX)** and **Ted Cruz (R-TX)** for their efforts and support toward pursuing federal legislation that will activate new water supply storage at Joe Pool Lake, located in Grand Prairie, Texas, for use in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The Senate and the House of Representatives each passed the Water Infrastructure Investment in the Nation Act of 2016, which was signed into law by President Obama on Dec. 16, 2016.

## Gratitude and Pastries

When seventh-grade student **Cameron Weeks** was assigned to complete a class project on empathy, he noticed that most of his classmates reached out to police, firefighters and doctors to thank them for what they do. Weeks told his mom that they wake up every morning and have fresh water. "There is a water facility right next door that makes this happen. We should thank them," he said. Cameron and his mom toured the DCRWS facility and brought cookies for the operators to thank them for their service. Cameron is pictured with **Clifford Woods** operator II (left) and **Andrew Moore**, senior operator (right).



## A Season of Giving

Once again, the DCRWS facility collected nonperishable goods for the Roanoke Meals on Wheels program. The event was coordinated this year by **David Hill**, operator II.



Employees at the Southern Region water plants, SR Office and LLP collected 425 bags of sugar to donate to the Good Samaritan House. They also prepared baskets for needy families in Trinity, Texas, which were delivered by Dorcus Wills Memorial Baptist Church.

PEOPLE NEWS & RECOGNITIONS



**Andrew Lantrip**, son of **Lisa Lantrip**, permit administrator, graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's in health. In June, he was selected in the eighth round of the 2016 MLB draft by the Cleveland Indians.



**Stephanie Mikus**, daughter of **Greg Mikus**, chief maintenance mechanic, graduated from Texas Woman's University in August with a Master of Arts degree in music. She is currently working with children at Children's Medical Center of Dallas as a music therapist.



**Nicole Whitlock**, daughter of **Mike** and **Nancy Whitlock**, land rights administrative assistant, received her bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Texas at Arlington on Dec. 16.



**Howard Williams**, operator I, had his third child on July 16. **Grace Lyn Williams** weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces.



Congratulations and thanks for your service to **Justin Lee Davis**, master sergeant, USAF, son of **Darrell Davis**, maintenance supervisor, who is retiring from his military duty after 21 years of service.



**Shelbe' Probasco**, daughter of **Kim Probasco**, operations financial administrator, got engaged to **Luke Loffland**. They are to be married May 27, 2017.



**Matthew Sosa**, son of **Ricky Sosa**, senior maintenance mechanic, took first place at the Lone Star Jr. Bassmasters club. His total catch was 12.28 pounds.



**Mitchell Ryan**, operator I, welcomed his second son, **Charlie Ryan**, on Aug. 30.



**Eleanor Justine TheBerge**, fourth grandchild of **Sharon Phelps**, lab technician I, was born on Nov. 12.



**Marie Burns**, permit administrator, welcomed her first grandchild, **Riley Nisbet**. Riley was born Sept. 20, weighing 9 pounds, 11 ounces.

## Awards and Certifications



Congratulations to **Fiona Allen, P.E.**, regional manager, Northern Region; she was among three former students recognized as a 2016 distinguished graduate of the Zachry Department of Civil Engineering at Texas A & M University. The award recognized Allen, a 1982 graduate, for her contributions and achievements in the civil engineering profession.

**Sandrine Hatcheu**, internal auditor, received her certification in internal auditing (CIA) in October.

**Mark Reeves**, engineer maintenance I, received his professional engineering (PE) license in December.

**Mitchell Ryan**, operator I, received his class C wastewater treatment license in October.

**Doug Short**, chief information officer, received his Certified Information Security Manager CSIM certification, which is an advanced certification that provides validation for individuals who have demonstrated they possess the knowledge and experience required to develop and manage an enterprise information security program.

**Mike Neal**, infrastructure and security manager, received his certified information systems security professional (CISSP) certification, which is an independent information security certification governed by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium.

**Steve Hunt**, IT support tech, received CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Security+ certification, which covers network security, compliance and operation security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security.

**Thomas Easo**, IT network system architect, received CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Security+ certification, which covers network security, compliance and operation security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security. Also included are access control, identity management, and cryptography.

**Vanessa Liu**, system and applications manager, received CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Security+ certification covers network security, which compliance and operation security, threats and vulnerabilities as well as application, data and host security.

**Jeff Griffin**, industrial control systems administrator, received his certified SCADA security architect (CSSA) certification, which provides professionals with an objective measure of competence as well as a recognizable standard of achievement.

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

#### 40 YEARS

**James Chadwick**, maintenance operations chief, CRWS

**Michael Young**, system operations manager, CRWS

#### 30 YEARS

**Cecil Alec**, security guard, LLP

**John Bennett**, manager, DCRWS

**Richard Brashear**, senior operator, LRWSS

**Stacy Rosetta**, accounting clerk, LLP

**Greg Schneider**, senior electrician, CRWS

**Peggy Stewart**, executive assistant, GO

#### 25 YEARS

**Gerald Gebhardt**, operator II, CRWS

**Eddie Grant**, electronic tech chief, CRWS

**Russell Gurs**, operations division chief, CRWS

**Ricky Sosa**, senior maintenance mechanic, CRWS

**David Odom**, chief operator, HRWSS

#### 20 YEARS

**Robert Burchett III**, maintenance mechanic II, SRSS

#### 15 YEARS

**Darrell Davis**, maintenance supervisor, LLP

**Alison Mackey**, chief financial officer, GO

**Douglas McMurrin**, senior electrician, CRWS

**Cloise Miller**, chief operator, CRWS

**David Poole**, operator II, HRWSS

**James Spurlock**, operator II, TMCRRWS

**James Wright**, chief pilot, GO

#### 10 YEARS

**Steven Conway**, operator II, CRWS

**Charles Knight**, park supervisor, LRF

**Bernd Linn**, lab tech II, CRWS

**Yesha Rai**, administrative assistant, GO

**Gary Shreve**, pilot/mechanic, GO

**John Mark Stephens**, operator II, TCRWSS

#### 5 YEARS

**Bruce Austin**, maintenance mechanic II, CRWS

**Todd Bacon**, inspector II, CMS

**Basilio Chavez**, chief maintenance mechanic, TMCRRWS

**Sean Galbraith**, operator II, CRWS

Mary Gaither, lab supervisor, CRWS  
 Joseph Gedville Jr., maintenance mechanic II, CRWS  
 Turk Gibson, maintenance mechanic II, CRWS  
 Jesus Gomez-Longoria, maintenance mechanic II, GO  
 Lakaz Janiszewski, senior biologist, CRWS  
 Mario Martinez, operator II, CRWS  
 Jesse Reed, inspector II, CMS  
 Melissa Saniuk, accounting manager, GO  
 Jonathan Sivernell, inspector II, CMS

**3 YEARS**

Sherry Allen, accounting clerk, SRSS  
 Rachel Amaro, senior chemist, CRWS  
 Bob Ayensu, GIS manager, PES  
 Trey Benton, buyer assistant, CRWS  
 Kevin Burks, O&M chief, TCWSP  
 Gerald Collins, park ranger, LRF  
 Larry Colquitt, operator II, TMCRWS  
 James Couch, inspector II, CMS  
 Barron Hall, senior collection system technician, CSG  
 Sheryl Hanks, biologist, LLP  
 Sandrine Hacheu, internal auditor, GO  
 Vanassa Joseph, communications manager, GO  
 Prerana Karki, senior accountant, GO  
 Marcos Martinez, operator I, CRWS  
 Douglas Morris, maintenance mechanic II, LLP

**WELCOME TO NEW HIRES:**

**CRWS**

Jerry Barrera, operator I  
 Cecil Bryant, maintenance mechanic I  
 Ancel Bynaum, maintenance mechanic I  
 Kevin Fregia, operator I  
 Troy Guter, maintenance mechanic II  
 James Hammes Jr., maintenance mechanic II

David Hauer, lab tech II  
 Jason Kinya, operator I  
 Mike Leist, operator I  
 William Menucci, chemist  
 Armando Palacios, operator I  
 Classic Rayford, maintenance mechanic I  
 Stephen Rivers, operator I  
 Mackenzie Russell, maintenance mechanic I  
 Pedro Urbina, operator II  
 Mason Wilson, maintenance mechanic II

**CSG**

Bruce Fowler, collection system technician II  
 Kevin Longshore, collection system tech II  
 Johnathan Comer, inspector I  
 Michael Zapata, inspector II

**GO**

Victor Patel, cash & capital projects manager  
 Sujata Sherchan, accountant

**ITSS**

Thomas Easo, IT network system architect  
 John Rice, IT application administrator

**LLP**

Cherylyn Douglass, custodian  
 Caleb Shelly, part-time maintenance helper  
 Kimberly Kayser, office coordinator II

**HRWSS**

Charles McMillian, part-time maintenance helper

**MCRWS**

Thomas Robinson, operator I

**PES**

Monique Nava, GIS tech

**TMCRWS**

Joseph Chapman, operator I  
 Jameson Hapner, operator I

**CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION:**

**CRWS**

Cody Edmondson, operator II  
 Zachary Jackson, operator II  
 Quintin Winters, senior operator

**CMS**

Richard Postma, construction management services manager

**DCRWS**

Howard Williams, operator II

**GO**

Julie Ball, accounting associate

**PES**

Addison Stucky, environmental scientist I

**TCRWS**

Misty Barnett, operator II

**TMCRWS**

Larry Colquitt, operator II

**TCWSP**

Randall Lyons, electronic tech II

## 2017 BUDGET SUMMARY

The Trinity River Authority's fiscal year 2017 annual budget was approved by our board of directors at its regular October meeting. The budget details authority-wide revenues of \$285 million and expenditures of \$283 million. A \$15 million increase in expenses, (5.7% more than fiscal year 2016) is anticipated. The bulk of the increase is from the personal services accounts, the other services and charges accounts and the debt service accounts.

- Other services and charges increased by \$6,834,117 (8.8%) over the FY16 annual budget due to an increase in several accounts including biosolids hauling, professional services, information technology, and repair and maintenance expenses. Other services and charges make up 30 percent of the overall budget.
- Personal services increased by \$3,367,031 (7.9%) due to merit increases, new positions, and increases in employees' health benefit cost.
- Debt service costs increased \$2,668,100 (2.1%) from the FY16 budget as a result of an increase of 4.35 percent at Central Regional Wastewater System. Several of the operating projects saw relatively small increases in debt service after refunding savings were applied. Debt service makes up 45 percent of TRA's overall budget.

*Some major initiatives that impact TRA's annual budget include the following:*

### **Lake Livingston/Wallisville**

Construction continues on the hydropower project at Lake Livingston Dam through the cooperative efforts of the East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc., the city of Houston, and TRA. Construction will continue through FY18. This project is funded by the East Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.

construction will continue through FY17. Final design is underway for the HC relief projects for segments 25HC-1, 25HC-3, and 25HC-4, as well as the preliminary design for the 25HC-5 segment.

### **Central Regional Wastewater System**

At CRWS, development of the Phase III Solids Project will continue. The project will likely reduce the annual weight of biosolids from 210,000 wet tons per year to 105,000 (50% reduction) wet tons per year, as well as reducing odors and creating the possibility for additional uses for the biosolids.

A Phase V rehabilitation project will include replacing infrastructure in the aeration basins. New infrastructure in this project will allow the plant to accomplish biological nutrient removal. This project will last through 2017. Upon completion, CRWS will achieve a lower phosphorus discharge to the Trinity River as well as a substantial energy savings.

Several pipeline projects will be underway including the Bear Creek Interceptor and the Elm Fork Interceptor as well as lift station and manhole rehabilitation work.

### **Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater System**

Capital improvements to the system include the Bear Creek Lift Station, Force Main and Gravity Outfall Improvements project. Final design of the Bear Creek System will be completed in 2017. The final design for the improvements to the Red Oak Creek Interceptor, segments 40RO-1 and 40RO-2 is currently underway.

### **Ten Mile Creek Regional Wastewater System**

Pipeline design projects for 2017 include the TM-1 Phase I and II relief interceptor project, which consists of approximately 17,000 linear feet of new 72-inch diameter gravity flow pipeline and the replacement of the DeSoto Meter Station. The Cedar Hill Lift Station will see improvements as well.

### **Mountain Creek Regional Wastewater System**

In FY17, the city of Mansfield will be added as a customer of the system. Design work for the Railport Improvements Project has started, which addresses rehabilitation and future needs at the lift station. MCRWS will implement efforts to reduce overall wet weather flow impacts to the system and evaluate improvements of electrical power usage for efficient and cost-effective system operation.

### **Information Technology**

IT initiatives include improving the current network and systems infrastructure, with an emphasis on cybersecurity, as well as upgrading imaging software in combination with extensive accounts payable automation and centralization.

### **Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System**

Construction is underway at the Kirkwood and Cade Branch pump stations. The Henrietta Creek (HC)-1 relief project

### **Human Resources**

A project team will be working on the implementation of a Human Capital Management System, which will continue through FY17. Emphasis will continue on the recently established wellness program. During FY17, TRA plans to employ 477 employees. This includes 17 additional positions (15 full time and two part time).

For a detailed look at TRA's FY17 budget, visit our website at [www.trinityra.org](http://www.trinityra.org), and look for financial information under the "Business Services" tab.

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