Facilities Services

Employee of the Quarter

Buck Donahue, Lonnie Barber, Dave Beach, Jack Breed, Kelly Doolittle, Les Sills.
And Charles “Chaz” Porter
Nominated by Chris Bordlemay

It is the reaction and professional work of this team that worked on the water main break on Pleasant Grove that inspired this nomination. Sometime in the mist of the normal day – and for one a vacation day, came a call of a water main break. Buck Donahue, Lonnie Barber, Dave Beach, Jack Breed, Kelly Doolittle, Les Sills and Charles “Chaz” Porter worked as a team locating, fixing and getting the road back to passable, some working double shifts, some until after 2am in the morning. By this time the break had been found and fixed on Pleasant Grove near Hasbrouck Apt, the date… August 20th. This crew was back on the job first thing that same morning, making more repairs.

The repair was difficult because it was located below a 30” storm line and the water line was fairly deep. The water from this leak was not surfacing at the leak site, but rather was carried away through the storm system. They realized that we would also have to repair the storm line because the next rain event would cause problems with the fill we would be putting in and potentially undermine the road. The crew came up with the strategy of building a form and pouring concrete from inside the storm line and they were successful.

The location had been backfilled and had steel plates covering to protect the site as the flow-able fill settled and hardened. By noon the road was opened back up to two lanes. The flaggers also did a great job in maintaining traffic flow through this event, as buses every 15 minutes, thousands of cars, pedestrians, bikes, etc., all safely navigated the work zone.

The job wasn’t finished yet, with opening day right around the corner, this area would soon be swarming with new students and parents that do not know their way around and a one lane road will not help at all.

The next day August 21st, at 6am this team was back on the job finishing up, removing the metal plates, tamped the fill and paved the site. During all this work safety and communication for the University and the community was handled with the upmost professionalism.

Opening day for student and families arrived and the road was completely repaired and the water main fixed!

These two departments within Facilities Management, these members from the Grounds Dept and the Pipe Shop, worked together to get his job completed, working safely, efficiently and professionally. Chris Bordlemay, the Water/Waste Water Manager said this was one of the more interesting water main breaks, and more challenging, that he has been in on a while. He expressed his kudos to the grounds crew and the pipe shop crew that worked on the job.

Congratulations Buck, Lonnie, Dave, Jack, Kelly, Les and Chaz!