

# Pipeline Connection



JOHNSON-DAVIS INC.

## Essential Business

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Prior to mid-March, I do not think that I ever heard “Essential Business” used to describe the construction industry. I believe Miami-Dade County was the first to issue a “shelter at home” mandate and allow the construction industry to remain operational. Other agencies followed soon after, including Palm Beach County and the State of Florida, giving Johnson-Davis the ability to continue to work. This was critical, as until then the impacts COVID-19 could have severely limited us in our work or even shut us down entirely.

Each and every week since 1981 I have read the weekly timesheets to better understand all I can about what goes on at Johnson-Davis. I must tell everyone that the past three months we have “stepped it up a notch” and have shown how essential we are to the citizens, businesses, and government agencies in the area.

The improvements and repairs performed to our infrastructure have proven to me without a doubt how “essential” our crews really are.

Everyone should be proud of what we have accomplished. I certainly am! It hasn’t been easy. Masks, social distancing, crew transportation logistics, and Zoom meetings have challenged all of our managers, and our managers have risen to the challenge. As the saying goes we may have won the battle, but it is going to be a long war.

Thanks. Be safe, stay healthy, and have a good summer.

Scott Johnson  
President



N-17 Control Structure: Stern Lashley’s crew removed and replaced drainage pipe, hand constructed a riprap headwall, and installed a flap gate and 6” concrete cap for the Central Broward Water Control District. This work helps the City of Davie prevent potential flooding by providing a bypass to the main canals.

## Project Spotlight: Kanner Highway SR 76 E4T09

By: Douglas Ipolito,  
Project Manager

As soon as the contract was awarded, Johnson-Davis and Ranger Construction Industries started working together with the FDOT and SFWMD to put together detailed de-watering plans for permitting. Ranger started clearing and grubbing activities in May 2019, and J-D started installing Phase 1 drainage right behind them.

The project was originally designed to have four distinct MOT (Maintenance Of Traffic) phases, which would have required four separate mobilizations to complete the project. Soon after the project got under-

way, Superintendent Tom Linsley and Project Manager Douglas Ipolito started progress meetings with the management team at Ranger which consists of Patrick Flynn, Jim McGibbon and Travis Gates. As

we looked at the entire project layout, we started to think that we could construct the project in two distinct MOT phases, saving time and money for both Ranger Construction and Johnson-Davis. So, we started discussing

the options with the CEI team and put the new plan in motion.

We started Phase 1 drainage installation and removals per original plans, and we also installed some of the major drainage crossings under temporary nightly lane closures. Working at night provided us with a slightly longer period that we could keep temporary lane closures. This work provided continuous drainage during construction and eliminated the need for one MOT phase change.

The night work took two weeks to complete, and then the crew was able to switch back to daytime hours and continue working. As work in these combined phases continued, Foreman Odilon Hernandez and his crew spent time working with setting steel sheeting and drainage in a very wet section of the project's eastern limits.

Foreman Pablo Fernandez Vargas and his crew eventually came in to complete the original phase of drainage installation and

removals as well as the work in the median that could be constructed under the current MOT phase.

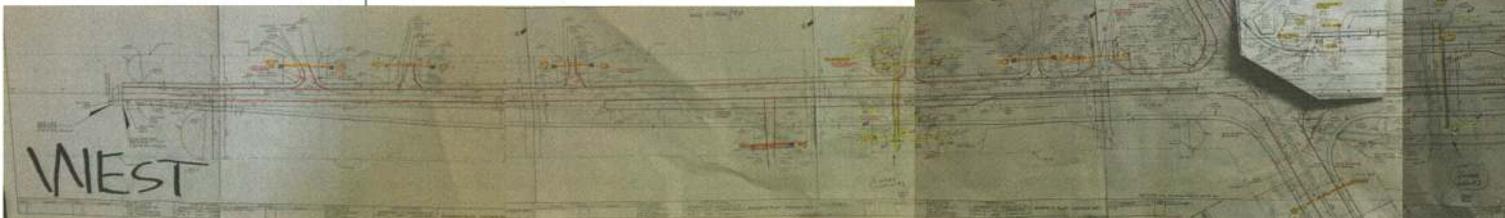
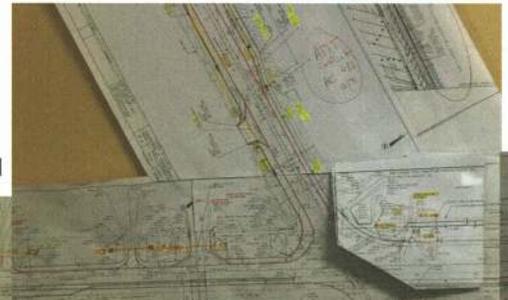
We had originally followed



Ranger Construction when starting, and they had now looped around to follow us behind our progress and continued roadway construction.

Now it was time for Ranger to make the major move from Phase 1 and jump to Phase 3, while J-D moved on to other projects.

As we waited for the traffic switch to be completed, we stayed on top of drainage structure production with our good friends Alejandro Diaz and Gil Schumacher at Concrete Products of the Palm Beaches. We



## Project Spotlight: continued

always like to walk the fine line of ordering drainage structures in enough time for them to be ready in time, but not too early that CPPB needs to hold them in their yard for long periods of time. The same thing goes for ordering special pipe such as the elliptical slotted pipe we needed for one of our French drain runs from our friends at County Materials.



The traffic switch was completed, and we were ready to return to complete the work starting on April 6, 2020. Foreman Aristhene Thelisonort and his crew arrived ready to work, but we were living under conditions that this generation had never experienced before. COVID-19 had reared its ugly head to the world and we, like everyone else, were trying to balance safety for all with completing essential work.

Ranger Construction had decided that a 4-day work week would help to alleviate some of the daily exposures, including those encountered during each day's commute. Superintendent Tom Linsley, Foreman Ari Thelisonort and his crew, and Foreman Pablo Fernandez Vargas and his

crew have been doing a fantastic job adjusting to the new schedule and have progressed in record time.

In an attempt to stay ahead of Ranger and their new very aggressive goal of completing the entire project 10 months ahead of schedule, we brought back Foreman Pablo Fernandez Vargas and his crew for four weeks. They also did a fantastic job in adjusting to the long days on a 4-day workweek schedule. Pablo's crew completed their tour of duty as this article was written.

Thanks to all. Keep up the good work!

The job consists of:

- Permanent Steel Sheeting: 1,851 sf
- Drainage Structure Inlets and Manholes: 84 total
- Drainage Pipe from 15" to 54": 7,600 lf
- French Drain 18" and 24": 3,500 lf
- Bedding Stone for French Drain: 3,600 tons (181 truckloads)

Project start date:  
April 21, 2019

Contract days: 782

Contract End Date:  
June 11, 2021

Total Contract Value:  
\$12,874,371.20

J-D Estimated Final  
Contract Value:  
\$2,031,416.73

Owner: FDOT  
District IV

Project Manager:  
Brad Salisbury, P.E.

\*\*\*\*\*

Construction  
Manager: CONSOR  
Engineers

Project Managers:  
Kelly Cowger &  
Randall Scott, P.E.

\*\*\*\*\*

General Contractor:  
Ranger  
Construction  
Industries, Inc.

Project Manager:  
Travis Gates

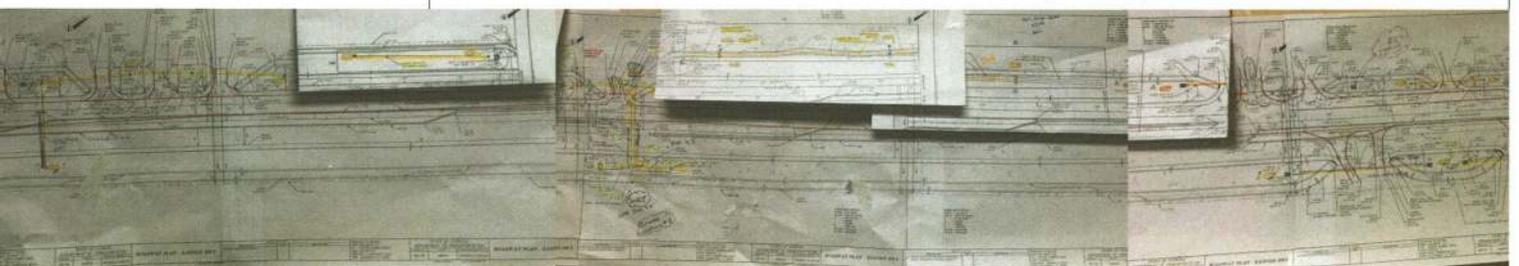
Superintendent:  
Jamie Wilkerson

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Johnson-Davis Inc  
Project Manager:  
Douglas Ipolito

Superintendent:  
Tom Linsley

Estimator:  
Chris Johnson



## Project Spotlight: Universal 931 Large Pipe for a Large Site

By: Chuck Cameron,  
Project Manager

Johnson-Davis has been contracted by Hubbard Construction Company to assist in the construction of Pavilion at Sand Lake PD/Lot 1 PSP/ LOT 1 DP (931A) for Universal Orlando Resort, also known as 931 Universal. This project covers approximately 130 acres just south of Sand Lake Road. It is associated with the



“Universal’s Epic Universe” theme park, a new theme park that was announced in August of 2019.

A project of this size and scope is best accomplished utilizing a variety of resources to complete the work in the time frames required. Hubbard Construction recognizes that a team approach is the best method to maximize their own resources



while still meeting the expectations of the Owner. Hubbard Construction has subcontracted a portion of the drainage installation work to Johnson-Davis. Our crews are working alongside Hubbard Construction’s own pipe crews who are installing utility piping and small diameter storm drainage, and another subcontractor is installing chilled water piping throughout the site. Concurrent to the pipe installation, Hubbard Construction is performing earthwork and grad-

ing operations resulting in an overall project site that is humming with activity.

The Johnson-Davis scope of work includes drainage pipe and structures with sizes ranging from 12” all the way up to 84”



diameter concrete pipe. Due to the complexity of the work and the need to work in concert with the other crews on the project, both Superintendent Tom Linsley and Senior Superintendent Leonard Dennis have been maintaining regular communication with Hubbard Construction to help coordinate our efforts on the project with the work being done by their other crews.



The task of installing 84” concrete pipe and large drainage structures may seem daunting to some, but our crews are up to the challenge. Foreman Pablo Fernandez Vargas and his crew are currently on the project. Pablo’s crew has installed nearly all of the 84” concrete pipe as they work their way up the drainage trunk line.

## Project Spotlight: continued

Besides the normal challenges of large pipe installation, our crews have also dealt with the coronavirus outbreak while working out of town. This presents new challenges as we work to remain productive through this pandemic. Social distancing is only one aspect of actively working in a pandemic.



Our crews who are working out of town have to travel to a remote work site using additional crew transport vehicles, stay in hotels that have reduced services in order to limit exposure, and contend with limited restaurant service while away from home.

One of the more recent challenges on the project has been the start of the annual wet season which has complicated the dewatering operations that



are being provided by Hubbard Construction. After one weekend of particularly heavy rain, our crew returned to the project to find multiple pumps completely underwater.

There is an obvious need for large diameter drainage as this site collects a significant amount of storm water during heavy rains. However until the drainage is complete, the water has to go somewhere. Our work areas are typically the first to go under water.

Credit goes to Pablo Fernandez Vargas and Tom Linsley as they have worked diligently over the last four weeks to help resolve these dewatering challenges and still get pipe in the ground.

No matter what we face, Hubbard Construction can count on the fact that Johnson-Davis will always work as hard or harder than anyone else to ensure that the work is completed to the standards dictated and



accepted by all stakeholders on the project.

Owner: Universal City Development Partners Ltd.

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General Contractor: Hubbard Construction Company

Project Manager: Bruce Baker

Project Superintendent: Chris Langford

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Johnson-Davis Inc. Project Manager: Chuck Cameron

Superintendent: Tom Linsley

Estimator: Scott Johnson

## Employee Service Award Recognition

Johnson-Davis owes its success to the talented people who work here. It is with gratitude and pride that we recognize the following employees for reaching milestones with our company. Thank you for your years with us!

**JEFFREY BRADY**  
25 YEARS



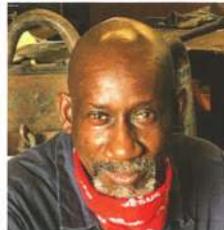
We are proud to recognize Jeff Brady for 25 years of service with J-D. On August 29, 1995, he returned as a Pipelayer and quickly was promoted to Mainline Foreman. Now known for his high level of knowledge, experience, and consistency, Jeff is capable of managing all types of projects we have including deep sanitary, deep drainage, and steel sheeting. Courteous to everyone, he knows what needs to be done and does it properly. We appreciate all that you do, Jeff!

**LARISA DITU PELKEY**  
20 YEARS



Larisa Ditu Pelkey started at J-D on January 10, 2000. Our Accounts Receivable Manager, Larisa is highly respected by those both inside and outside of our organization. She does her job extremely well, a very challenging job including preparing customer invoices, preparing and collecting releases of liens, and pursuing payment collections from customers. She is trustworthy, committed to timely submission of invoices to customers, and maintains strong relationships with our customers. She is very dedicated to J-D, and we are lucky to have her. Congrats, Larisa!

**ABRAHAM COX**  
15 YEARS



On March 21, 2005, Mechanic Abe Cox started working at J-D. He starts his day early to help ensure all small equipment needs are met for the field. Abe knows what is needed before someone asks. Abe is creative and takes great pride and ownership in the management and care of our small equipment. He also assists in other areas of the shop as needed. Thank you for your work over these years, Abe!

**JACQUECY LORMEUS**  
15 YEARS



Jacquency Lormeus began working for J-D on May 31, 2005. Knowledgeable about our work, Skilled Laborer Jacquency knows what it takes to get the job done. He keeps the tools organized and organizes and cleans the gangbox when there is time. He has a quiet confidence and works well with everyone on his crew. Jacquency also helps out in other roles when needed. Congrats!

**AGUSTIN GUERRERO OSEGUERA**  
10 YEARS



Agustin Guerrero Oseguera began his career with us on October 25, 2010, on a Carpentry crew and quickly demonstrated his desire to grow. He advanced to a Tailman, Loader Operator, and is now a strong Backhoe Operator. Knowledgeable and level-headed, he does as asked and whatever he can to help his crew. Thank you, Agustin!

## Employee Service Award Recognition: continued

**ALEJANDRO NAVA RIVERA**  
10 YEARS



Hired February 16, 2010, Alejandro Nava Rivera started as a Skilled Laborer. Over the years, he has earned promotions to Loader Operator and now Backhoe Operator. Talented on the backhoe, he spends time thinking about the crew's tasks and how to make things better. Alejandro also takes good care of his equipment. Thanks, Alejandro!

**ARISTHENE THELISNORT**  
10 YEARS



Aristhene Thelisonort is being recognized for 10 years of service. He was a Pipelayer for us starting June 16, 2010, and was very knowledgeable about our work. He has since earned a promotion to Mainline Foreman and continues advancing in that role. Ari is known to be very self-motivated, always wanting to get things done and done well, and being trustworthy. He takes great pride in his work. Thank you for everything, Ari!

**RUSSELL DIVINE**  
5 YEARS



Hired October 9, 2015, Russ Divine is our Machinist. He is an excellent and highly knowledgeable machinist. Russ is also very responsible and highly respected both in and out of the shop. He will work with and teach anyone, including his supervisors, and is strong with his housekeeping. He can make something out of just about anything and will help anyone at a moment's notice. We appreciate you, Russ!

**ROBENS PIERRE**  
10 YEARS



Robens Pierre began his career with us as a Mason on October 5, 2010. He is a very talented Mason and also filled in for other positions. More recently, Robens was promoted to Backup Crew Leader. He is known for his incredible work ethic, willingness to do anything needed, and kind personality. He also takes great pride in his work and wants to do his best for J-D. Thank you!

**ERNST TURENNE**  
10 YEARS



We proudly recognize Ernst Turenne for 10 years with J-D. He began working here on November 2, 2010, as a Skilled Laborer. Employees enjoy working with him. He performs well as his crew's Hillman, and he gets tools ready for his crew before they even ask. We appreciate you, Ernst!

**JORGE MARTINEZ**  
5 YEARS



Jorge Martinez returned to J-D on April 27, 2015, as a Tailman. He had also previously held that role in a prior employment period. A few years ago, Jorge earned a promotion to Loader Operator. He works well with his crew and will do as he is asked. Thank you, Jorge!



## Johnson-Davis Scholarship Recipients

Each year Johnson-Davis proudly supports our employees' children as they pursue further education at trade schools and colleges. This year we are pleased to announce four recipients of the Johnson-Davis Inc. Scholarship for the school year 2020-2021. Congratulations!

**Centari Rodriguez**, son of Crew Leader **Moises Molina**, is being awarded a Johnson-Davis Scholarship



for the third time. He is a student at Florida Atlantic University, studying archi-

itecture. He has wanted to be an Architect since he was young. In addition to school, he enjoys drawing and creating art, building computers, and playing video games.

**Dellisa Lewis** is the daughter of Backhoe Operator **Delroy Lewis**. She intends to be a Forensic Psycholo-



gist and is currently studying Psychology at Bethune-

Cookman University. With her degree, she wants to help ensure justice in the criminal system. In addition to school, she volunteers a lot in the community and has a job. This is the fourth year in a row that Dellisa has earned a Johnson-Davis Scholarship.

**Jacob Earnest**, the son of Superintendent **Robert Earnest**, has earned a



Johnson-Davis Scholarship for a second year.

He is a Chemistry major at the University of North Florida and intends to study Forest Resources and Conservation on his path to become a Forester. He wants to monitor planting, growing, and harvesting timber while minimizing environmental impact.

**Delroy Lewis Jr**, son of Backhoe Operator **Delroy Lewis**, recently graduated from Palm Beach Lakes Community High. He will



be attending Bethune-Cookman University in the fall.

Delroy is interested in building things and will study Engineering. He intends to get his license and have his own business. Delroy volunteered in his community. He also played football throughout high school and was recognized as Best Cornerback and Best Safety.



## Some Current & Upcoming Projects

<u>Job #</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Prime Contractor</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
41642	Turnpike AET Phase 8 E8R65	Traffic Management Solutions	FDOT	March 2020
11677	SR 17-92 Utility Improvements	Burkhardt Construction	City of Maitland	June 2020
31682	Town of Palm Beach Marina	Murray Logan Const	Town of Palm Beach	Oct 2020
61694	Universal 931	Hubbard Construction	Universal City Dvpt	April 2020
11702	Old Jupiter Creek & Casseekey Island WM Crossing	Johnson-Davis Inc.	Town of Jupiter	Aug 2020
11707	50th Street South Raw Watermain Replacement	Johnson-Davis Inc.	Village of Wellington	June 2020

## Adapting to the Times

Johnson-Davis has always taken pride in our ability to adapt to the needs of our customers and employees. As our world is faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working hard to continue to adapt to our changing world.

Johnson-Davis began putting procedures and processes in place to help protect the safety of our employees and community. As City, County, and State Orders were issued and OSHA and the CDC provided guidance, we found that we were already in compliance due to our proactive approach.

Our steps included:

- Creating internal interim policy documents covering COVID-19 and J-D planned prevention and responses to infection scenarios.
- Preparing our company to perform critical tasks remotely including processing payroll and bidding and managing projects. Ron Cravens worked tirelessly with our employees and network to

allow this to occur seamlessly.

- Instructing administrative employees who could work remotely to do so, thereby significantly decreasing exposure to the now smaller group of employees within their shared office building space.
- Obtaining reusable personal use masks for field employees and supplying two to every employee before it became mandated by regulatory orders.
- Obtaining sanitizing spray for our pool vehicles, shops, offices, and ice machines.
- Converting latch doors to simple push/pull for ease of use and obtaining touchless toe pulls and keychain pulls for administrative and field employees needing entry into the building.
- Installing a paperwork drop box outside of the Lantana office.

- Installing Plexiglass into company vehicles to allow employees to safely share pool vehicles.
- Engaging a vendor to sanitize our administrative offices and shop by electrostatically fogging with sanitizer.
- Encouraging Superintendents and administrative employees to meet via virtual method whenever possible.

We are proud of our field employees who have done



a fantastic job adapting to policy, legal, and rule changes in an unprecedented environment. As this challenge continues to change our work environments, we will continue to adapt as needed to ensure the safety of our employees, our clients, and the community!

## Kudos Korner

Johnson-Davis was proud to receive a letter of thanks from a resident of a Lake Worth community where we had performed drainage work. For the first time in a long time, their local street did not

flood, and the resident expressed gratitude.

We appreciate the hard work performed by the crews of Chesca Ceance and Anthony Valverde. Big

thanks also go to Superintendent Rich Heller III and Project Manager Doug Ipolito for helping lead this project.



## Employee Spotlight: Happy Retirement!

Three of our long-term family members retired this year, Pete Lipski, Don Myers, and Ronnie Rhoads, after a combined 78 years of service!



Pete Lipski retired after 23 years with J-D. An extremely talented Loader Operator, Pete cared tremendously about his job and following J-D procedures. He knew how to organize jobs without guidance and kept our projects looking neat.

Don Myers ran all types of heavy equipment with J-D



for more than 22 years, specializing on the Back-

hoe. Don was known to be very trustworthy, reliable, and work well with his crew. Quiet on the surface, he could also be quite talkative and all smiles.



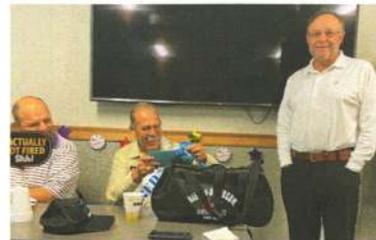
Ronnie Rhoads retired after more than 33 years with us.

Over the years Ronnie has driven all types of our com-

mercial vehicles. He is known as someone you can always count on, friendly, and dedicated. He has a strong work ethic and gets along with everyone. Ronnie, you have left us with very big shoes to fill!

Unfortunately COVID-19 has put a temporary halt on group gatherings, preventing us from celebrating the retirements of Pete and Don. We look forward to a time when we can get together and celebrate the retirement of these two wonderful people as well.

Pete, Don, and Ronnie: We wish a fond farewell and best wishes to all of you! Enjoy your WELL DESERVED retirements.



## Safety Scoop: Working with Challenges

By: Andy Thomson,  
Safety Director

Johnson-Davis has spent a great deal of time developing and working on publishing its CORE Values, and last year we trained Supervisors on these as well as leadership principles that we can jointly use to present a consistent approach to leading and managing our workforce.

Although calendar year 2020 has been a tough one for everyone, we can be grateful that work has not slowed down! The challenges that our nation currently faces are exactly the reason why we must embrace the leadership principles that are meant to carry us safely and efficiently home each night. As a company, we have put in place work practice controls that have helped protect our employee base from contracting or spreading COVID-19.

Thankfully, we have embraced the precautions given to us by the Centers

for Disease Control and OSHA. We have cleaned, sanitized, distanced, masked, and even brought in a vendor to electrostatically fog our buildings to ensure that we are doing what we can to control the spread of the virus. Please read the article on page 9 and look at the photos on what we have done to control our work environments as much as possible.

Throughout all of the challenges that we are facing during this time, we have all remembered that this company is a family and a family that cares about its members and their families at home. Without that care for one another, it would be impossible to continue to do what we do for one another every day.

We are finding that complying with the onslaught of guidance, recommendations and law being put forth by the government on

COVID-19 is truly difficult to keep up with. What is most important to remember is that we must always be looking to move forward by decreasing the spread of this virus. Allowing ourselves to relax in wearing masks or forgetting to wipe down surfaces after touching them along with washing/sanitizing our hands will be where we could drop the ball and see a resurgence of the virus.

I would like to thank the entire Johnson-Davis family of employees for understanding and complying with the rules we have put in place to protect everyone working here. We wear masks not to prevent contracting the virus, but to prevent giving it to others if we have it and do not know it. This is all about protecting others while we wait for a vaccine.

Thank you for all your hard work, and best wishes for a continued safe year!



### IN THE PRESS



Johnson-Davis was spotlighted in a 2020 edition of *Utility Contractor* for our work on the Margate Aerial Crossing project. Congratulations to everyone who helped make it a success!

As part of a continued investment into our property, J-D made recent improvements including a parking lot redesign and striping.





## JOHNSON-DAVIS INC.

Construct with Confidence

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Wawa Boynton Woolbright and Congress: The crews of Chescal Ceance, Rene Hernandez, and Stern Lashley installed for H&J Contracting 84" RCP and Rip Rap Rubble in a feeder canal and set up dewatering for Axtell to cast in place headwalls on both ends of the 84" RCP. Our J-D crews also installed double 8x8 box culvert and set up a temporary by-pass for the flow of the LWDD L-29 canal and dewatering to keep the area dry, allowing Axtell to cast in place over 100 CY's of concrete for the wing walls.



Cocoanut & White Hall Watermain Repair: Gene Hayford and crew repaired a leak on a 16 inch watermain made of materials no longer in use. The repair work had to be completed in an intersection and around existing storm drainage, electrical lines, and a gas main. The crew also replaced two gate valves and outdated fittings.

Thank you to this edition's contributors: Chuck Cameron, Leonard Dennis, Robert Earnest, Rich Heller III, Rene Hernandez, Bob Hopler, Doug Ipolito, Nichole Jackson, Edwin Jacobs, Tom Linsley, Michael Llewellyn, Edric Martin, Aristhene Thelisnort, Andy Thomson, and Robbie Ueltschi.

US 41 T1747: Rene Hernandez and crew installing 18 inch drainage from S1 to S2 at the corner of US 41 and Blackburn in Osprey. The crew is also installing 30 inch watermain and force main for Bergeron Land Development to support the widening of 3 miles of US 41 in Sarasota County.



### *The Last Word*

Thank you to everyone who works at Johnson-Davis. Your hard work has produced amazing results. Please remember to follow all best practices, protect yourself, your family, coworkers, and customers. Remember to wear masks, social distance, and continue to listen to all guidance.

Thanks, Scott