

# Pipeline Connection

Summer 2022



JOHNSON-DAVIS INC.



## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Page 2

Project Spotlight

Page 3 - 6

Upcoming Jobs

Page 7

Employee Service Recognition

Page 8 - 11

Johnson-Davis In The Community

Page 12

Safety Scoop

Page 11

Johnson-Davis Scholarships

Page 13

Employee Spotlight

Page 14

The Last Word

Page 14



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## FORTY FIVE MORE

I remember the fall of 1977 almost like it was yesterday. The afternoon of the day before we started our 1<sup>st</sup> project, Mr. Herb and I travelled to Bob Spink's house in Pembroke Pines for dinner and to prepare for our unknown futures. At 7:30 the next morning, the lowboys arrived at Spencer Lakes, just west of I-95 at the 45<sup>th</sup> Street exit in West Palm Beach. A Drott 50 hydraulic excavator and a Michigan 55 B wheel loader were delivered along with a wellpoint system from Acme Wellpoint.

What was my dad thinking? A 50-year old starting from scratch in an area that was sleepy compared to the counties to the south. I guess it is better to ask, "What were the people who gave us our 1<sup>st</sup> contract thinking?" As I recall, Storm & Irwin took a big chance! We barely finished phase 1 and I guess they felt sorry for us and gave us phase 2. Slowly, Johnson-Davis, Inc. began to grow. High interest rates and a recession in the early '80s were challenging but by 1986 we were chugging along with four (4) crews and building our office on Hillbrath Drive.

In 1992, Mr. Herb supposedly "retired" and I became president of a growing, energetic company with a diverse workforce ready to meet every and all challenges!! Growing through the '90s and until 2008 was easy as our workforce grew to 17 crews and almost 200 employees with sales in excess of \$40 million annually.

The wakeup call of 2009 was met with an attempt to carve out our market as one of a highly sophisticated and talented sub-contractor and prime contractor with all the tools, brainpower and nerve to undertake the most challenging projects in the most difficult areas. I believe we have met our challenges and have generally exceeded the expectation of those who choose to contract with us.

Mr. Herb has passed away, Bob Spink has retired to the Villages and I remain the lone member of the TRIO that dined in Pembroke Pines that Sunday night forty five years ago!! I can't dwell in the past. I can only thank my coworkers, subcontractors, suppliers, owners, prime contractors and most of all my family for allowing me to lead this great organization.

As I near retirement, I am confident that Chris, Clark, Ronnie and their leadership team will continue what we started 45 years ago and reach the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and hopefully 4<sup>th</sup>, generation of a family business.

Mr. Herb would be proud of all of us!!



Scott Johnson, 45 years

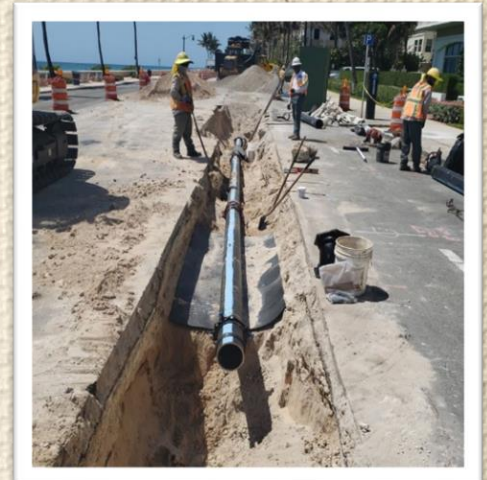


# Project Spotlight: Midtown Watermain Replacement

By: Doug Ipolito

In late September of 2020, Johnson-Davis agreed to contract with Burkhardt Construction, Inc. for the Phase 3 South – Midtown Watermain Replacement Project. Burkhardt Construction had negotiated with Town of Palm Beach as Manager at Risk for combined Townwide Overhead utility Undergrounding in conjunction with the Phase 3 South – Midtown Watermain Replacement Project.

The estimate and negotiation for the contract for the work were put together by Scott Johnson and Walter Pfaffenberger. After all the details for the labor and equipment along with materials and subcontractors were broken down in detail, the negotiations on material cost and subcontractors were worked out and the team was put together in preparation for start up in early April of 2021.



Joe Bagford was chosen as Superintendent for the project and the Main Line Crew was headed up by Wisler Dort. Joe was very familiar with the Burkhardt Construction team, including their field-tested Superintendent Ted Kaminski. Ted and Joe worked long hours together throughout the entirety of the project to keep the project progressing and the public out of harm's way. Every day required coordination and planning between looking ahead for Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) and survey and layout coordination while always staying on top of picking up the As-Built information and watermain testing required to assure the new line could be turned over for use when ready.

The work area was on the very popular stretch of South Ocean Blvd. from Gulfstream Rd. to Royal Palm Way. This work required the development of a well synchronized MOT. This allowed the crew to stage material and equipment and work with limited interruption of the locals and all the tourists visiting the beach and the shops.

The job was divided into three phases in order to keep all the residents with uninterrupted water service. The first phase was set up from Gulfstream Rd. to Worth Ave. and up Hammon Ave. No well thought out plan comes together without some surprises and the first phase we jumped into was no exception to this rule. While installing the new 8" watermain from Gulfstream heading north to Worth Ave. the crew discovered an abandoned tunnel from the Winthrop House to the beach. The entire team needed to get together to decide the best way to get over, under, around or through the tunnel. After many options were considered, the team decided to cut a notch in the tunnel walls and set the 8" watermain through the new cut out.



# Project Spotlight: Midtown Watermain (Cont'd)

Work progressed and the first part of Phase 1 was completed. The Town had requested, on behalf of The Colony Hotel, that we hold off on working on Hammon Ave. until mid August. The crew then jumped across Worth Ave. and started Phase 2 work from Worth Ave. to Australian Ave. As soon as the installation of the watermain in this phase was completed, the crew jumped into the last section of the project from Australian Ave. to Royal Palm Way while additional crews dropped back and started to get ready for testing.

The timing of the different sections was well coordinated between Ted and Joe and Kaitlin Townsend at Kimley-Horn. As soon as the crew had completed the installation work on the last section, they jumped back and the first section was ready to turn over all the services and then do the same in the last section.

Jesse Tudor at JW Cheatham led the charge and we had a lot of great help with striping from Rui Silva at Fine Line Striping. This coordination was critical to the safety of vehicular traffic throughout the paving process. As I had stated at the top of this article, no job in a very popular and exclusive area can be successfully completed without the coordinated efforts of a very large network of dedicated people and every stage.

Thanks go out to everyone with special thanks to: Tony, Ted, Mark, Kevin and Michael at Burkhardt Construction; Patricia, Mike and Jason at the Town of Palm Beach; Kaitlin and Kevin at Kimley-Horn; Laura Le and Lina at the City of West Palm; Joe and all the crew at Johnson-Davis, Inc.; Tom and Jesse at J.W. Cheatham, LLC; Rui and his crew at Fine Line Striping; Roosevelt, Roger, Don and the field crews at Acme Barricades. Good work!



Owner: Town of Palm Beach  
Prime Contractor: Burkhardt Construction  
Superintendent: Joe Bagford  
Project Manager: Doug Ipolito  
Estimators: Scott Johnson and  
Walter Pfaffenberger  
Major Suppliers and Subcontractors:  
Ferguson Waterworks, J.W. Cheatham, LLC.,  
The Rangeline Group, Fine Line Striping,  
Acme Barricades

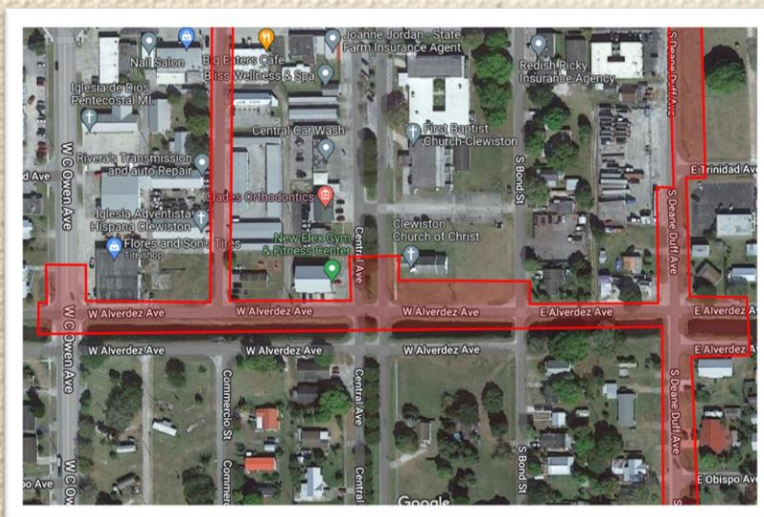


## Project Spotlight: Alverde Ave and Comercio St. Watermain Improvements

By: Cesar Carrillo

The Alverde Avenue and Comercio Street Watermain Improvements project was put out to bid by the design professional, Johnson Engineering, on behalf of the Owner, the City of Clewiston, in early January of 2022. The City of Clewiston, with a population of just over 7300, is located in Hendry County just south/west of Lake Okeechobee. The timing of this project was exactly right for the City of Clewiston as the area of Alverde Avenue and Comercio Street had an increasing demand for higher water quality at adequate water flow and pressure. As a new acquisition to the Johnson-Davis team in the Project Management and Estimating departments, as well as a recent graduate in Civil Engineering with previous experience in the same departments, I was entrusted with taking on this project bid from the pre-bid stage to bid preparation and submission, followed by contract and project management upon award. Being involved in every step of the project would later prove to be a great advantage.

Together with Scott Johnson and Jim Amsler, we prepared and reviewed the bid for the multi-phases of the watermain construction project. The team also negotiated with subcontractors and material suppliers to ensure a buy-out of the project's vendors could be carried out within the budget or better. Phase 1 of the project, awarded to Johnson-Davis in March of 2022 as a stand-alone phase, consists of construction of a primarily eight-inch PVC watermain along the North side of West Alverde Avenue between W C Owen Avenue and South Dean Duff Avenue including associated testing, tie-ins, and servicing; this phase also included a twelve-inch directional drill under the Canal running along Alverde Avenue. Phase 2 of the project, consists of some eight-inch PVC watermain on Comercio Street north of West Alverde Avenue, along with a ten-inch directional drill of approximately seven hundred linear feet under East Ventura Avenue. The scope of Phase 3 (yet to be awarded) includes watermain on Comercio Street from West Alverde Avenue to West Aztec Avenue, along with a four-inch watermain along the South of West Alverde Avenue and a ten-inch directional drill under the West Alverde Canal.



Aerial view of Phase 1  
watermain installation.  
This will result in better  
water quality for the  
residents and businesses  
of the community.



# Project Spotlight: Alverde Ave Watermain Improvements (Cont'd)

Johnson-Davis mobilized labor, equipment, and materials to the Alverde Avenue and Comercio Street Watermain Improvements project and began construction on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Assigned to this project as superintendent is Edric Martin and the construction crew is being led by Johnson-Davis long time foreman, Odilon Hernandez. Johnson-Davis' major alliances on this project are the City of Clewiston, the design professionals at Johnson Engineering, Fortiline Waterworks, K3 Directional Drilling, and ISCO Industries.

Currently, Phase 1 is well underway with an anticipated completion of late July along with Phase 2 commencing early June and completing at the same time as Phase 1. We have received great support from vendors on this project to ensure budgets and timelines can be met despite of the difficulties the construction industry is experiencing with supply-chain issues, material availability, and constant material pricing increases. The hard work and dedication that all Johnson-Davis team players are implementing on this project is greatly appreciated, and we cannot wait to see the final results upon final completion of the project.

Owner: City of Clewiston  
Superintendent: Edric Martin  
Project Manager: Cesar Carrillo  
Estimators: Scott Johnson, Jim Amsler, Cesar Carrillo  
Design Professional: Johnson Engineering  
Major Subcontractor and Suppliers:  
K3 Directional Drilling, Inc., Fortiline Waterworks and  
ISCO Industries





## Some Current and Upcoming Projects

<u>Job #</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Prime Contractor</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>Start Date</u>
11880	NW 24 <sup>th</sup> Street Culvert Replacement	Johnson-Davis, Inc.	City of Coral Springs	June 2022
61897	Sansbury Way MUPD	Redlands Group	Sansbury Way LLC	July 2022
11905	Alverde Ave Water Main Improvements	Johnson-Davis, Inc.	City of Clewiston	May 2022
21909	Wabasso Drive Over LWDD L-2 Canal	Johnson-Davis, Inc.	Palm Beach County	August 2022
71911	SR 15/Shirley Dr. to East of Main Street	Johnson-Davis, Inc.	Palm Beach County Water Utilities Dept.	August 2022
41912	SR A1A North Bridge Causeway T4853	Ranger Construction	FDOT	October 2022





# Employee Service Recognition



**David Gonzalez**  
**35 years**

David started in the Fall of 1987 as an entry level laborer. His career at Johnson-Davis, Inc. has been highlighted by his almost perfect attendance and never-ending quest to do what is ever asked to help the company. Thank you David for your many years of service.



**Gene Gardner**  
**35 years**

“Gene The Machine” has been a member of our maintenance department “officially” since 1987. We say “officially” because Gene’s association with the company actually started in the early 80’s when he owned his own equipment maintenance company. No matter who you have worked for, we are glad that you have been part of our historic growth!



**Walter Pfaffenberger**  
**20 years**

Hired in February 2002 as a Backhoe Operator, Walter has become a fixture in our Project Management department. A “workhorse” with a fantastic attitude, Walt is a favorite of all our customers. It seems like “just yesterday” when you moved into the office! Thank you for your 20 wonderful years.



**Phillip McDonald**  
**20 years**

Phil started as an entry level laborer in the Fall of 2002. Moving from entry level to the skilled level, Phil has been a support crew leader and equipment operator for the past 20 years. Thank you for your years of dedicated service.



# Employee Service Recognition



**Kenneth Harp**  
**15 years**

Kenny was hired in the Summer of 2007 and has advanced from an entry level laborer to a support crew leader. Our designated “non-critical open water driver” can always be seen with a wide grin – even if the water is 60 degrees! Thanks Kenny.



**Michael Llewellyn**  
**15 years**

As the maintenance shop administrative manager, Mike takes his job very seriously. Charged with keeping up with all purchases, rentals and the location of our assets, Mike does his best to fill a very difficult role at Johnson-Davis, Inc. Thanks for 15 successful years.



**Rafael Gonzalez Dominguez, 15 years**

Hired in 2007, Rafael has advanced to the skilled position of tailman. His contribution for his 15 years of service have been many. Johnson-Davis, Inc. appreciate your service.



**Adriel Yanez**  
**15 years**

Hired in June 2007 as an entry level laborer, Adriel has advanced to a skilled laborer and a valuable contribution to his crew. Thank you for a great 15 years.



**Alfonso Arce**  
**15 years**

Hired in November of 2007, Alfonso has developed into our top backhoe operator. His assigned equipment is well cared for extending the life of the machine and reducing its cost per hour. Thank you for 15 great years.



# Employee Service Recognition



## **Luis Ruiz 10 years**

Luis was hired in September 2012 and has excelled at all positions he has accepted. His latest promotion was to mainline crew foreman trainee with hopes to advance within the ranks. Thank you for your 10 years of service and best of luck in your quest of advancement.



## **John Lester 10 years**

“Big John” was hired in the Spring of 2012 as a skilled laborer. John has held many positions including loader operator, crew leader and yard operator. Thank you for your continued dedication, hard work and fantastic ability to refer new employees!



## **Moises Molina 10 years**

Moises was hired in late 2012 as an equipment operator. During his 10 years at Johnson-Davis, Inc., he held positions a backhoe operator, backup crew leader and mainline training foreman. Thank you for your 10 years of service.



## **Howard Miller 10 years**

Returning to Johnson-Davis, Inc, in August of 2012, he would actually be celebrating his 21<sup>st</sup> year of service if not for a 3-month interruption! “Tex”, as he is known, is our premier lowboy driver. His driving record speaks for itself and his friendly disposition is welcomed by everyone!



# Employee Service Recognition



## **Delroy Lewis 10 years**

Rejoining Johnson-Davis, Inc. at the end of 2012, Delroy has advanced to a very reliable backhoe operator. Thank you for your many years of service. Hopefully your son will follow in your footsteps!



## **Kechener Philemons, 10 years**

Kechener returned to Johnson-Davis, Inc. in the summer of 2012 and has successfully served as a skilled laborer in both mainline and backup crews. Keep up the work work!!



## **Magdaleno Arce Urieta, 10 years**

"Lenny" was hired as skilled laborer in the Spring of 2012. During his career at Johnson-Davis Inc., he has held many key positions. Congratulations on your 10 years with the company.



## **Wislet Dieujuste 10 years**

Wislet was hired in the Spring of 2012 as an entry level laborer. His hard work has allowed him to advance to a skilled position and an integral member of our production crew.



## **Aniel Phanor 10 years**

Hired in the Spring of 2012 as an entry level laborer, Aniel has advanced to a skilled laborer classification. The company appreciates your hard work.

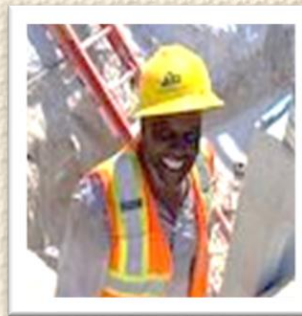


# Employee Service Recognition



**Carlos Montes**  
**5 years**

Hired as a loader operator in 2017, Carlos has contributed to the success of Johnson-Davis, Inc. during his five years. Thank you for your service.



**Ronald Steen**  
**5 years**

Ronnie started in March 2017 and has been a reliable pipelayer working the northern counties of our work area. We appreciate your contribution and congratulate you on your 5 years.



**Anthony Hester**  
**5 years**

Anthony started at Johnson-Davis in February 2017 and has advanced to a dependable and talented excavator operator. Thank you for your 5 years of service.



**James Galvin**  
**5 years**

J.R. returned to Johnson-Davis in 2017. Originally hired as an entry level laborer, "Junior" has held a number of key positions and is currently our yard dispatch operator.



**Eugene Edmond**  
**5 years**

Employed since 2017, Eugene's proven dependability is appreciated and valued by the company.



**Walter Castanon**  
**5 years**

Hired in September 2017 as an entry level laborer, Walter has advanced to the pipelayer position. Your rapid advancement could brighten your future.



# Johnson-Davis In The Community

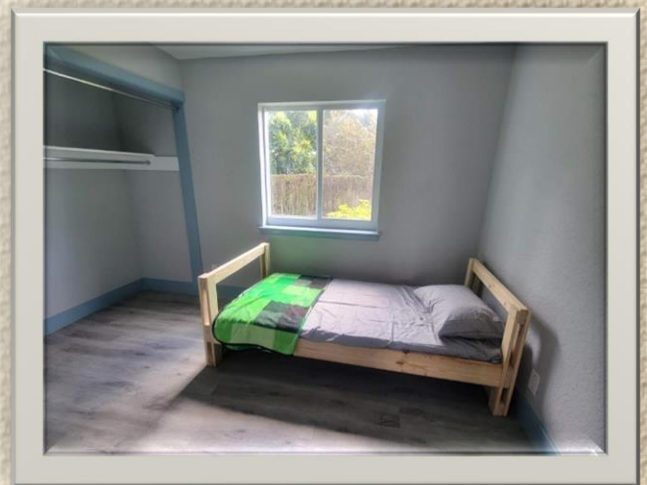
By: Jim Amsler



After a happenstance meeting between Clark Cryer and Tom Rivera, an opportunity to give back to the community was created. Tom is the Director of the South Florida Chapter of Xcel Strategies which is a mentoring network that fuels young people with purpose and passion to reach fullness of their potential.

In their conversation Tom mentioned that he knew of another non-profit organization, Vita Nova, who was in the process of converting an old, dilapidated apartment complex into long term housing for homeless teens. This project will give teens in need, supportive housing, education, employment, and life skills training for two years. One of the items requested for this project was a single bed and bedding for each of the fifteen teens that will call the new Vita Nova Village home.

Hearing this need, Johnson Davis answered the call. Clark along with Jim Amsler purchased and donated the materials needed to construct these beds. A group of volunteers from Xcel, Johnson Davis, Vita Nova, Florida Engineering Leadership Institute, and other community volunteers gathered on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, to make it happen. At the end of the day fifteen beds were built, set up, and donated to the new Vita Nova Village!





# Safety Scoop

## EXCAVATION SAFETY

By: Raymond Nel, Safety Director, CHST

First and foremost, I would like to thank each and everyone for the hard work and commitment to our safety program. Our Daily JHA'S, our Daily Excavation Inspection Reports, our Weekly Safety Toolbox Talk Topics and our Monthly Job Site Safety Inspection forms are critical safety exercises that reminds us constantly that we are human. We forget things. We don't always recognize the hazard immediately. We get complacent sometimes.

Excavation is what we do. Sometimes only a few feet deep and every now and then we excavate 12 feet deep or more. Certain OSHA Guidelines need to be followed to make an excavation as safe as possible.

Training, Knowledge, and Experience takes time. Competent person presence and inspection is a good start. But we need to follow the OSHA Guidelines too.

Let's look at the following:

- Perform a Daily Inspection by the Competent person. Determine soil classification.
- Know where your underground utilities are. (Sunshine 811 locates) Soft digging may be necessary.
- Place spoil materials at a minimum of 2 feet away from the edge of the excavation.
- Perform an air quality test in all excavations 4 feet deep or deeper.
- Cave in protection if excavating 5 feet deep or deeper. (Sloping or use a Trench Box)
- Recognize 6 ft fall hazards.
- Install a ladder or have egress ramps when excavating and travel distance to the ladder should not be more than 25 feet. Straight ladders should extend 3 feet above the ground.

The mainline crews consist of 7 workers. That is 7 sets of eyes that can be on the lookout and constantly monitor a safe working environment. We all have family and loved ones. That is more important than anything else allowing US to return home safely after each hard-working day.

If you see something, say something.



**“WE WORK SAFE,  
BECAUSE WE HAVE A  
LOT TO LIVE FOR”**

Johnson-Davis, Inc. is a major supporter of NUCA and participates in Trench Safety Stand Down



# Johnson-Davis Scholarships

Congratulations to our 2022 scholarship winner, Quinten Ipolito!! Quinten, son of Doug Ipolito, will be a Sophomore this fall at University of South Florida majoring in Finance. We wish him a great school year!!



## Employee Spotlight

### Retirement

A heartfelt thank you to Manuel Hernandez and Napoleon Stephens for their years of service and contribution to Johnson-Davis, Inc. Enjoy your retirement and the exciting adventures ahead.

### Promotions

Congratulations to the following individuals on their promotion. Their dedication, strong work ethic, and leadership are valued and recognized. We wish you continued success!

Chescal Ceance – Foreman/Trainer  
Odilon Hernandez – Foreman/Trainer  
Richard Tharpe – Foreman Trainee  
Moises Molina – Foreman Trainee

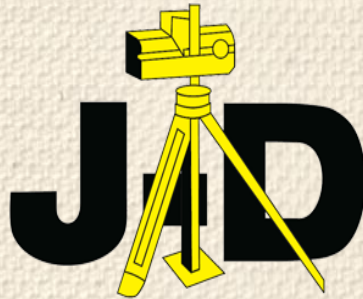
Jose Hernandez – Foreman/Trainer  
Pablo Fernandez Vargas – Foreman/Trainer  
Luis Ruiz – Mainline Foreman  
Abraham Cox – Shop Foreman



## The Last Word

A long time ago, a wise man and good friend of mine told me, "Life is a marathon, not a sprint." Working at a family business, I can appreciate that even more!!

Sincerely,  
Scott



**JOHNSON-DAVIS INC.**

*"Construct with Confidence"*

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