



GIS Division Newsletter

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**Welcome Brian Lackey,
GIS Division's newest
team member!**



Brian came to us from Robins AFB in Warner Robins, Georgia where he worked as a contractor in the Geobase Office for the 78th Civil Engineering Squadron. His GIS experience covers tax mapping at Pond & Company, aerial imagery at LandAir Mapping, and utilities mapping for Atlanta Gas Light Resources. Brian is an Alumni of Berry College.

Welcome to the GIS Division Newsletter! We hope to bring you news about our work and future projects. Let us hear from you.

Interview with Ms. Pat Biegler, Director of Public Services



Editor's note: This month's cover interview features CCG's new Director of Public Services, Ms. Pat Biegler. Ms. Biegler holds a B.S.E. in Civil Engineering from University of South Florida, Tampa as well as an M.S.S.M. (Master of Science in Systems Management) and a Certificate in Information Management from the University of Southern California. Additionally, she is a graduate of Army Command and General Staff College and the Army Management Staff College, and a Professional Engineer licensed in the state of Maine. Among her many honors, Ms. Biegler was named by the National Society of Professional Engineers one of the Top Ten Engineers in Federal Service (1998) and one of the Top Ten Public Works Officials in North America (2002) by the APWA. She has had a distinguished career in public works on military bases the world over. Columbus is the fourth city government to benefit from her talents. She is the author of several journal articles and has been a presenter at numerous professional development conferences. In her time away from work, Pat enjoys learning about history, reading, crocheting, stamp collecting and spending time with her daughter, Libby. Ms. Biegler was recently kind enough to sit down and answer the following questions.

GIS Trivia!

- 1) How many State names are also Columbus street names?
- 2) What Columbus street shares its name with the only North American bird that is black underneath and white on the back?
- 3) What subdivision is situated at the highest average elevation above sea level?

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Or visit:

www.columbusga.org/gis

Super-fun quick fact:

Did you know?

Muscogee County contains about 151 miles of railroad track.

Question: What is your level of comfort or expertise using GIS?

Answer: *Well, let's just say my expertise is mixed. If I had to create a map myself, I could not do it without some tutoring. However, I have a really good grasp of the possibilities, have a number of projects already underway and many more planned for the future.*

Question: Please describe how geospatial data is currently used in your department.

Answer: *It's not used much, except for the recent projects we've initiated. We're currently doing a project to audit our billed waste management customers against the actual pick up routes to identify those who should be paying and are not – or the ones we should not be picking up, but are. We've just gotten a map of private streets for our customer service reps to utilize and we'll be teaching them how to use that on line. We're working with Engineering on a map that will clearly identify the weight-restricted bridges in the City to share with our field crews. I could go on and on.*

Question: How can using GIS improve the way your department conducts business?

Answer: *Lots of plans, but I'll give you one example. The audit of our waste management customers is the first step in a process. GIS has matched the billing addresses from the water department with the parcel addresses and given us a map that clearly displays lots for those who are NOT paying for trash pick up. We'll have our drivers review their routes and tell us which ones they are picking up. We'll compare the two. Later, we'll use the validated customer list, the weight restricted bridges info and a one-way street map to feed a computerized routing program for more efficient routing of our waste pickup vehicles. We should then have a couple or a few free trucks that can be shifted to our recycling program, which not only saves landfill space, but also earns us money for the material recycled. I also have plans to use GIS in stormwater, in urban forestry, in streets and other areas of our operations.*

(Biegler Interview continues on next page)

eGIS Data Viewer... Better Maps, Better Data, Better Decisions



Answers to GIS Trivia!

- 1) There are 10: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington.
- 2) Bob o Link Drive. The male bobolink changes to the black/white color scheme to stand out during mating season.
- 3) Ivy Park (average elevation approx. 650 feet above sea level).

Fun with point files

Columbus has:

- 50 METRA bus shelters
- 6606 fire hydrants
- At least 297 churches

If you have a question for the GIS Division, send it to us via email and we *may* include it in our next newsletter.

Question: Please tell us how the tasks you outlined in Question 3 above are currently carried out.

Answer: *Well, we've never had an audit of our billing system that I know of. Our routing is manual and just estimates an "equivalent number of pickups" for each driver.*

Question: What would you like to see incorporated in GIS data or systems?

Answer: *Certainly, we want to get a GIS based routing program. We also need a GIS data collection system of some type and ultimately, we'll link our customer service system to GIS and find and purchase a GIS based assets management system. This work will allow us to better manage all of our resources – money, time, manpower – and provide better and more proactive customer service.*

Question: What do you envision for the future of geographic information systems within your department?

Answer: *All of the above and then some.*

Question: What can the GIS Division do to better serve your department?

Answer: *Other than cloning yourselves, not much. I've only been here two months and I've already gotten a colossal amount of help out of the GIS folks. The support has been great and is much appreciated. We'll talk about other needs as things unfold here. I'm looking forward to a long and productive working relationship*



On Wednesday, November 15th, the GIS Division hosted a successful GIS Day at the Columbus Civic Center. The event was well attended by GIS professionals from around the surrounding area, including the Public Works Geospatial Program Manager from Fort Benning, Columbus Water Works, Geographic Information Services, Inc., River Valley Regional Commission, and the CCG Storm Water Division and Planning & Zoning Division. We thank everyone involved for their time and help.

Please make plans to join us again next year for GIS Day 2012

Natalie Culpepper of ESRI, leading
“GIS in Public Safety” presentation.



Riley Land, Isaiah Hugley, Shondra
Helen Hogan, and Jama Singley



Our own GIS Coordinator, Jeff Griffin
and Victoria Barret from the Columbus
Water Works.

