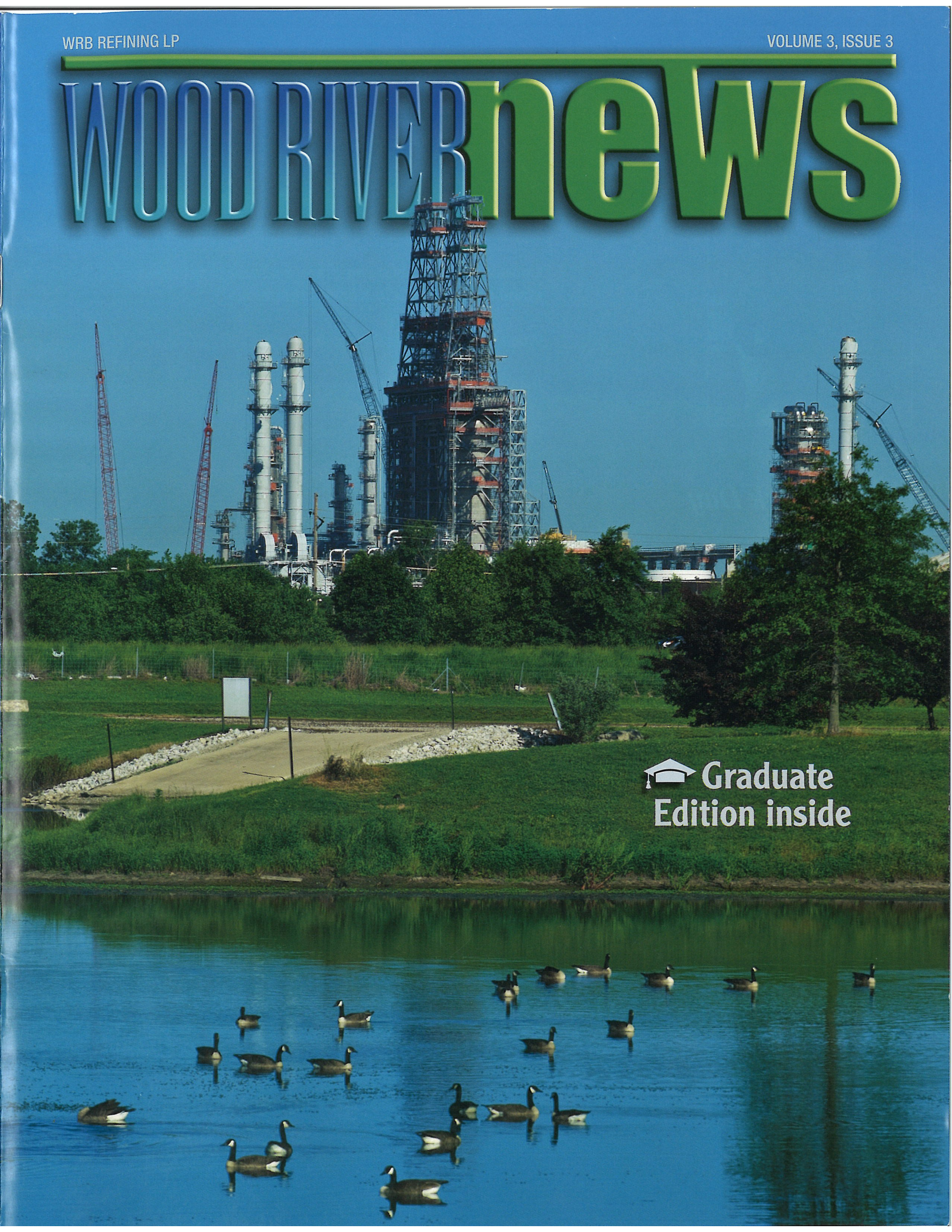
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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

WOOD RIVER news



Graduate Edition inside

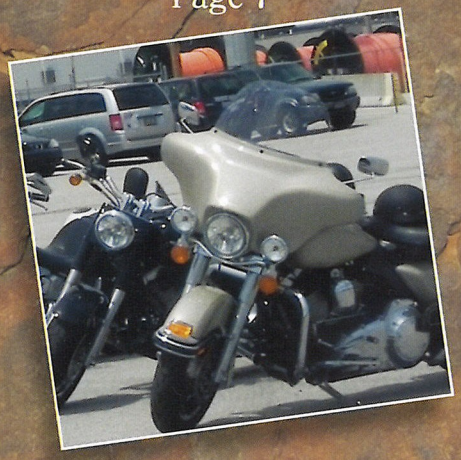
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WRB Refining LP

Wood River Refinery News

A joint venture between ConocoPhillips and Cenovus Energy

Volume 3, Issue 3

Wood River Refinery News

for employees at its Wood River Refinery

P.O. Box 76, Roxana, IL 62084

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WOOD RIVER news

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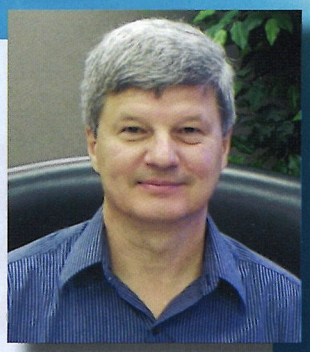
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Refinery Manager's Corner



We are on the eve of something grand here at Wood River – a once-in-a-lifetime project that is a game changer for the Wood River Refinery. Our focus for the remainder of 2011 will be:

- Starting up the remaining CORE facilities safely.
- Doubling the processing of heavy Canadian crude oil.
- Establishing reliable operations across the entire refinery in order to capitalize on this $3.7 billion investment.

Did you know that we have already safely started up 55 percent of the equipment that is part of the CORE project? Our past successes and learnings will be applied to the remainder of the startup as we bring on line our sulfur plant facilities, coker naphtha hydrotreater, new vacuum flasher and the 65 MBPD delayed coker unit. The coker startup enables the increased processing of price-advantaged heavy Canadian crude while increasing our production of quality transportation fuels by 20 percent. We are doing our small part to improve the energy security of the U.S. while providing an increasing number of good-paying jobs in our local community. Talk about an exciting responsibility!

And we are doing all of this while we reduce our environmental footprint. Since the inception of the project, we have successfully decreased our annual SOx emissions by approximately 97 percent (12,300 tons annually) and our NOx emissions by 25 percent (1,200 tons annually) through the installation and startup of our wet gas scrubbers (WGSs) and selective catalytic reductions (SCR) on the catalytic cracking units. Our flare gas recovery projects will be reducing flaring and associated emissions while we recover flare gases to reduce natural gas purchases.

We have been working for several years now to make the vision of a safe and successful startup a reality. Securing additional startup support personnel was a key action from the January 2011 Prepare-to-Operate Readiness Review. Additionally, we have approximately 20 unit experts coming in from other ConocoPhillips locations to help with the startup. These additional personnel include experienced operations supervisors and process engineers for all major units, as well as extra instrument and mechanical engineering support to ensure reliable equipment operation. In addition, multiple personnel from the CORE Project Team will roll over to our startup support team.

Operator hiring and assignments have been completed, and training is nearly complete. The coke handling operators have completed classroom training and have already had the opportunity to test drive much of the coke handling systems. Other discipline-specific training that is planned for the new equipment includes coker unheading valve operation and maintenance, new continuous emissions analyzers calibration and testing, and checkout of instrument safety systems.

Our Process Operations personnel have been involved from the beginning to ensure that the units are ready for startup at construction completion. We take ownership of all this new equipment one system at a time, ensuring that every piece of equipment is installed per design and specifications. For example, one of our quality checks is to sign off on the tightness of all bolts on every flange to ensure a leak-free startup. Another key part of our past startup success had been our Build-It-Clean Program. In order to ensure the safest startup, free of interruption, the piping for the new units are flushed and dried as part of hydrotesting, while selected systems are chemically cleaned or steam blown.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and support as we look to begin a new and exciting chapter in the history of Wood River. Always remember that our most important obligation is to operate safely, reliably, and in compliance with all rules and regulations while making sure everyone goes home safely at the end of each and every day.

Take care and work safely,
Jay Churchill
Refinery Manager

ConocoPhillips pursuing plan to separate into two stand-alone, publicly traded companies

Plan creates two leading, independent energy companies

Jim Mulva, chairman and chief executive officer, announced at the global town hall webcast July 15 that the ConocoPhillips Board of Directors has approved pursuing the separation of the company's Refining and Marketing and Exploration and Production businesses into two stand-alone, publicly traded corporations via a tax-free spin of the Refining and Marketing business to ConocoPhillips shareholders. Following the completion of the proposed separation, ConocoPhillips will be a large and geographically diverse pure-play exploration and production company with strong returns and investment opportunities. The company's strategy of enhancing returns on capital through developing new resources, growing reserves and production per share, continuing the asset sale program, and increasing shareholder distributions will not change.





As a separate company, the Refining and Marketing business of ConocoPhillips will be a leading pure-play independent refiner with a competitive and diverse set of assets. In addition to executing the company's initiatives to improve downstream returns through portfolio rationalization and other operating efficiencies, the new downstream company will be able to further position its portfolio by pursuing transactions and investments across the value chain. Under the contemplated plan, both companies will be well-positioned with financial strength and flexibility and experienced management teams committed to continued value creation.

"Consistent with our strategy to create industry-leading shareholder value, we have concluded that two independent companies focused on their respective industries will be better positioned to pursue their individually focused business strategies," Mulva said. "Both companies will continue to benefit from the size and scale of their significant high-quality asset bases and free cash flow generation, allowing them to invest and create shareholder value in a changing environment."

The separation of the companies is expected to be completed in the first half of 2012. The work to determine the detailed allocation of assets and liabilities, the management and governance of the companies, and the mechanics of completing the separation will begin immediately. Further details will be disclosed as they are determined over the next several months.

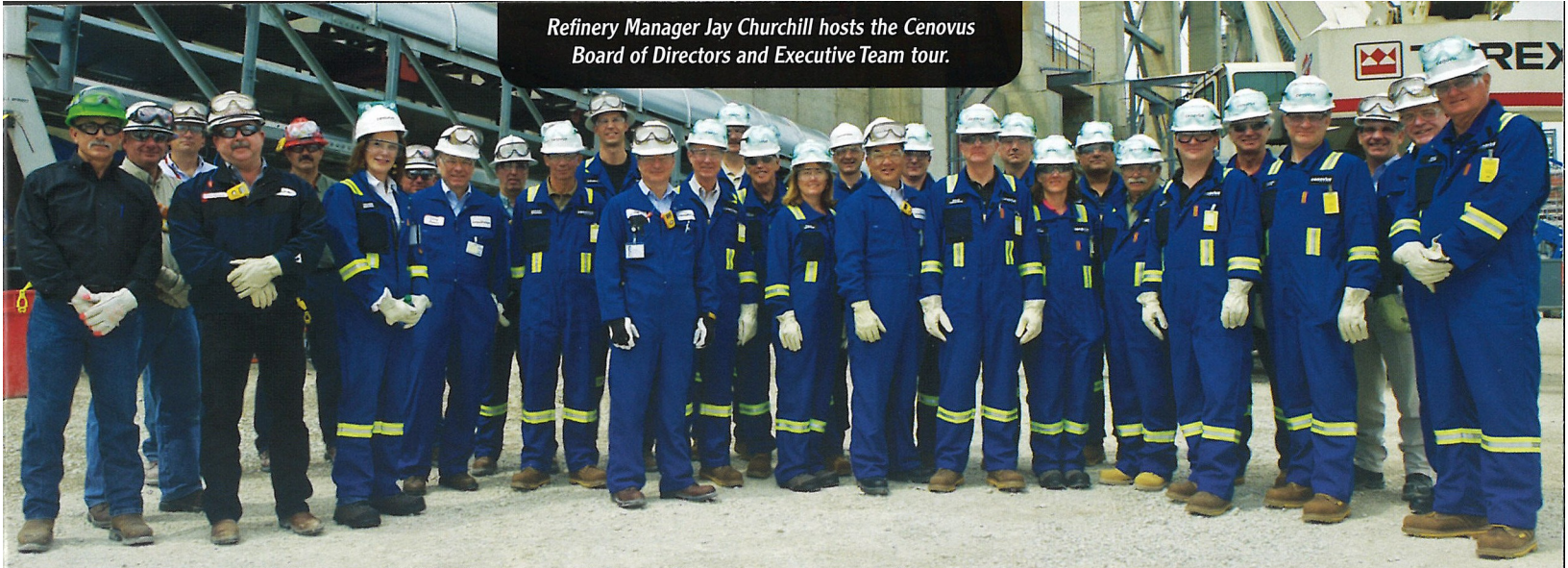
For more information regarding the repositioning, visit the Repositioning site on *eStream*.

SAFETY MILESTONES

CO heater No. 2 project team wins safety award

The National Association of Construction Boilermaker Employers (NACBE) awarded the Wood River Refinery Madison Industrial Services Team with the Project Performance Award for work performed as part of the repairs to the CO heater No. 2. The team completed the project with zero recordable injuries. In a letter from John Erickson, executive director of NACBE, he said, "Zero injuries is a goal of NACBE, but it was an accomplishment for Madison Industrial Services Team and Boilermakers Local No. 363." Congratulations to the entire team for continuing to put safety first.





Refinery Manager Jay Churchill hosts the Cenovus Board of Directors and Executive Team tour.

Wood River Refinery takes center stage

As Wood River Refinery looks forward to the completion of the expansion and embarks on the multiunit startup, its most important asset is certainly the great partnership between ConocoPhillips and Cenovus Energy. In late spring, the refinery was at the center of attention for both companies.

Wood River hosted the annual meeting of the Global Refinery Managers to provide an opportunity for the managers to view downstream's largest and very important project as we near construction completion.

As part of the Cenovus board strategy session held in early June, members of the Cenovus Board of Directors and the Executive Team toured Wood River Refinery to see the progress on the CORE project.



Randol Marzuola, ConocoPhillips site manager, New Units, and Darren Curran, Cenovus manager, Downstream Operations and Major Projects, take time to explain the new processes of many of the new units.



Val Huntsman, ConocoPhillips Prepare to Operate manager, describes the coker north DCS operations graphics for Cenovus board members.



During the tour, Cenovus board members toured the new coker north.

Refinery participates in emergency drill

In May, Wood River Refinery participated in an emergency response drill. The exercise involved over 100 refinery personnel all working in conjunction with several mutual aid emergency response agencies, including Roxana Fire Department, Hartford Fire Department, Wood River Fire Department, Alton Fire Department, Godfrey Fire Department, Edwardsville Fire Department, Collinsville Fire Department, Granite City Fire Department, Staunton Area Ambulance Service, Alton Memorial Emergency Medical Service and representatives from several organizations, including the Madison County Management Agency, Alton Memorial Hospital and St. Anthony Hospital.

This full-scale drill provided the opportunity to evaluate the preparedness of Wood River Refinery's Emergency Response Team, as well as the ability to work together to properly protect our employees and citizens in the community, minimize the damage to the environment, and preserve the assets of the companies.

The drill presented a scenario of a large fire with multiple injuries and necessary rescue operations at catalytic cracker No. 2, prompting a call for mutual aid. With a total of 14 people injured, 12 of the injured workers were transported to area hospitals. Two others were treated at the refinery and released. As part of the drill scenario, a portion of the Wood River Refinery was evacuated and personnel were accounted for.



In addition to the on-site triage, treatment and transport of the simulated injured personnel, several other field emergency response operations were conducted during the drill. Firefighting operations included the development of high-volume water supply operations using large-diameter hose and high-volume water application by means of apparatus monitors, portable monitors and an aerial truck. Refinery rescue team and Wood River Fire Department personnel used the Wood River aerial truck to conduct a high-angle rescue of a simulated victim. Other field activities included rescue of a victim trapped by falling debris, decontamination of a contaminated victim and emergency evacuation of response personnel from the incident area.

The scenario included loss of several business functions to test our Business Continuity Plans. The size of the scenario prompted the request for ConocoPhillips' IMAT Response Team – a team that provides emergency response efforts and expertise from other ConocoPhillips assets nationwide – to join the refinery in our response efforts.

The drill enabled emergency response and safety personnel from Cenovus Energy to observe and understand the refinery's response capabilities. In addition, the refinery's Community Advisory Panel (CAP) was invited to observe field and EOC response activities, as well as participate as members of the media during the mock press conference. The CAP had been given an Emergency Preparedness presentation earlier in the year. This drill enabled these community members to see the plan in action. Evaluators from Lewis and Clark Community College Fire Science Program, Alton Fire Department, and ConocoPhillips Corporate Emergency Response Group critiqued the drill and provided feedback.

This exercise successfully met the primary objective of providing an environment for refinery personnel and local organizations to work and learn together to provide an effective response to accomplish the training objectives.




APPARATUS OPERATOR
ER 2183
Rescue 1
LCCC
EXERCISE
EVALUATOR



ConocoPhillips Dependent Scholarship winners announced

The ConocoPhillips Dependent Scholarship program recently awarded 60 scholarships to sons and daughters of employees and retirees. Four children of Wood River Refinery employees were chosen from more than 367 applicants.

Selected by a committee of independent educators, winners were chosen based on academic excellence, community service and financial need. Each recipient will receive a $4,000 award, renewable yearly based on scholastic achievement, for a four-year scholarship of $16,000. Winners may use their ConocoPhillips scholarship to attend any accredited educational college or university of their choice.

Receiving this scholarship is a prestigious honor for a high school senior. Please join us in congratulating the following Wood River Refinery students:

Kelsey N. Belt, daughter of Ralph and Linda Belt, a graduate of Mascoutah Community High School, Mascoutah, Ill.
Joanna M. Calhoun, daughter of Richard Calhoun, a graduate of Cinco Ranch High School, Katy, Texas.
Katelyn E. Diveley, daughter of Steven and Trisha Diveley, a graduate of Civic Memorial High School, Bethalto, Ill.
Elisabeth D. McWhorter, daughter of Mark and Shannon McWhorter, a graduate of Edwardsville High School, Edwardsville, Ill.

Winners were honored at a lunch Thursday, July 7, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Collinsville, attended by their families and refinery and CORE project management.



The 2011 ConocoPhillips Dependent Scholarship winners. Not pictured is Joanna M. Calhoun, whose honor was recognized in Houston.



Ralph, Linda and Kelsey Belt proudly accept the certificate of accomplishment from Julian Stoll, Operations manager.



Steven, Trisha and Katelyn Diveley proudly accept the certificate of accomplishment from Julian Stoll, Operations manager.



Mark, Shannon and Elisabeth McWhorter proudly accept the certificate of accomplishment from Julian Stoll, Operations manager.

ANNUAL RIDE TO WORK DAY

Each year, the third Monday in June is recognized as Ride to Work Day. This year, on June 20, Wood River Refinery riders and enthusiasts showed off their bikes while highlighting motorcycles as a viable, fun and fuel-efficient mode of transportation.

Participants for this year include the following, individual's bikes listed left to right: Jim Fisk (Security), Brett Miller (Operations), Mike Shaw (Tank Group), Dan Zitt (Operations), Scott Jenkins (Operations), Tom Collins (CORE), Bob Blaine (Maintenance), Clyde Wiseman (Emergency Response Technicians), Ken McDade (Middough Consulting, Inc.), DeDe Clinch (Belcan Corporation), Alan Nolden (Ambitech Engineering) and Stephen Allen (Belcan Corporation).



Welcome and thanks to our 2011 summer interns:

Lisa Barrett – Environmental Engineering Intern, Environmental
Daniel Boyd – Project Development Intern, CORE
Timothy Homeier – Process Engineering Intern, Aromatics
Leah Morehead – Process Engineering Intern, Alky/Cracking/Gas
Michael Schmitt – Reliability Engineering Intern, Reliability and Inspection
Luke Zaczek – Reliability Engineering Intern, Maintenance and Reliability

Refinery Fact

Brought to you by the Wood River Refinery History Museum

An aerial view of Wood River Refinery in the early 1940s. If the prospect of war dimmed the outlook of many Americans during 1940, you couldn't prove it by the employees at Wood River Refinery. They were simply too busy putting the finishing touches on the biggest expansion program Wood River had ever seen. First, it was the new alkylation plant, followed by a new 30,000 bpd topping unit and the new cracking and coking unit, Dubbs No. 18.



Wood River Refinery responds to MOTHER NATURE'S FURY

Spring and early summer have been a rough few months for the Midwest, as storms and record number of tornadoes have provided much anguish. Wood River Refinery and ConocoPhillips have stepped up to assist our region in the best ways possible.

Storm-struck in Madison County

Residents of incorporated and unincorporated Madison County, Ill., were left dealing with the aftermath of tornado destruction in late April. Madison County's Sheriff Robert Hertz said a dozen homes sustained major damage and 90 others had minor damage. Hertz said the most destruction was contained in a 1-square-mile area between Granite City and Pontoon Beach. Despite the damage, no serious injuries resulted from the storm.

Wood River Refinery donated nearly 200 bottles of water and supplies to the Granite City Chamber of Commerce for residents left with no water and responders supporting the cleanup efforts.

Refinery hosts blood drive

In May, Wood River Refinery hosted an American Red Cross blood drive to help those in need as a result of storms that devastated much of the Midwest. Once again, team members stepped up to show their support in record numbers. This refinery drive boasted the highest number of donors in history, with over 70 presenting donors and a total of 78 productive units collected.

According to the American Red Cross, one donation can help save the lives of up to three people. Your donation makes a difference! Thank you again to our volunteers and donors.

ConocoPhillips contributes to Joplin tornado disaster relief efforts

Within days of the tornado touchdown in Joplin, Mo., just hours away from Wood River Refinery, ConocoPhillips announced its contribution of $500,000 to the American Red Cross to assist in disaster relief efforts.

The company has also offered to match donations made by its U.S. employees.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to those who have lost friends and loved ones in Joplin," said Jim Mulva, chairman and chief executive officer. "We hope this contribution will help fill some of the needs of those most affected so they can start to rebuild their lives and return their community to the vitality it once had."

Emergency Response Open House

The Community Advisory Panel (CAP) of the Wood River Refinery hosted an Emergency Response (E.R.) Open House Wednesday, June 15. Thank you to all community and refinery emergency response personnel for their involvement and participation.

Hosted at the Main Office parking lot, the E.R. Open House gave community members a chance to witness a live demonstration as Wood River Refinery emergency responders rescued Cinders the Clown from the top of the Main Office Building. Children received fire safety reminders, coloring books and trading cards as they toured the refinery's E.R. vehicles. Attendees learned about the refinery's partnership with other local emergency response organizations in our region and learned about safety and emergency response at Wood River Refinery.

The Community Advisory Panel is comprised of five refinery members and eight representatives from our area communities. The group's vision is to be "a diverse group of individuals committed to a strong presence in the community who are visible, accessible and dedicated to fostering strong, open communications between the community and the Wood River Refinery."













Senders the Clown stands behind the peak of Main Office Building roof and calls attention from onlookers, signifying the beginning of the rescue demonstration.

Volunteers from Wood River Refinery support Special Olympics

Wood River Refinery acknowledges and thanks the many employee and family volunteers who contributed to the Special Olympics Area 12 Spring Games. Nearly 10,000 Special Olympics athletes around the state participated in Area Spring Games. Thank you.

Andre Brown • Rob Kuehnel • Jeremy Loftis • Whit Patrick • Jennifer Urbonas



CONGRATS!



Congratulations to John Sievers, analyst, GIS, for being drawn as the winner of the American Red Cross 2011 1:24 #16 die cast car. John, along with dozens of others, turned out to show his support during the American Red Cross blood drive on-site in May.

NHN volunteers for ADA Tour de Cure



Riders enjoy some refreshments before heading back out on the route.

Members of the New Hire Network (NHN) – Wood River Refinery Chapter have had a busy, community service-based summer.

NHN members, along with friends and family, turned out Saturday, June 4 to cheer on riders with the American Diabetes Association (ADA) Tour de Cure. Nearly 1,000 riders rode their bicycles along the Great River Road, choosing either the 50- or 100-mile course. Along the way, the NHN sponsored a rest stop for riders to stop, hydrate, cool off and grab a snack. Thank you to NHN members who helped out at this event, including:

James Moynihan
Dan Boyd
Lisa Barrett
Jim and Morgan Schulz
Mike Ghobrial
Tim Homeier
Keesha Dhaene

Make a Splash Tour with Cullen Jones

For the third consecutive year, the USA Swimming Foundation and Olympic Gold Medalist Cullen Jones have joined forces with ConocoPhillips to raise awareness about the importance of learning how to swim as part of the Make a Splash Tour with Cullen Jones. Through this tour, Jones, a survivor of a near-drowning incident at age 5 and the first African-American male to hold a world record in swimming, will visit six cities to address the importance of water safety in an effort to reduce the number of U.S. drownings, particularly among minority youth. In June, Jones visited the Metro East area and the Mathews-Dickey Boys' & Girls' Club to share his experiences and swim with some of the youth in the program.



Each year, more than 3,400 people drown in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. African-American children drown at a rate nearly three times higher than Caucasian children in similar age groups, and 60 percent to 70 percent of African-American and Hispanic children cannot swim, according to a national research study by the USA Swimming Foundation and the University of Memphis. Jones has made a point of using his celebrity status to change those statistics.

"Swimming is more than an activity or a sport. It is a life skill, just like reading or riding a bike," Jones said. "Every summer, I hear about kids drowning, and in so many cases, it could have been prevented. It is important to me to spread the word about resources available to kids and parents and to give back to a sport that has given so much to me."

Make a Splash is the national child-focused water-safety initiative of the USA Swimming Foundation. Since its inception in 2007, Make a Splash has reached more than 845,000 children with life-saving swim lessons, and the USA Swimming Foundation would like to surpass the 1 million mark by the end of 2012. Through its nearly 400 local partner programs, Make a Splash offers free or discounted swimming lessons or water safety education in 45 states.

For ConocoPhillips, who has partnered with USA Swimming for 38 years, the opportunity to sponsor the Make a Splash Tour with Cullen Jones was a natural extension of the company's steadfast commitment to safety and education. The company's charitable donation to the initiative will help save lives by giving thousands of children, who would otherwise not have the opportunity, the ability to take swimming lessons. Additionally, ConocoPhillips is also the title sponsor of the ConocoPhillips USA Swimming National Championships, the marquee domestic event of the year for swimming.

USA SWIMMING FOUNDATION
SAVING LIVES
Building Champions

Summer interns organize drive to meet community needs

The 2011 summer interns hosted a Back-to-School Supply Drive and Food Drive to benefit two local community nonprofits this summer. Bins were located throughout the refinery to collect food to assist the Crisis Food Center in alleviating hunger and providing help for those in need in our area and to gather school supplies to benefit the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Alton, Ill. During the summer months, Wood River Refinery team members donated a total of four bins of food and four bins of school supplies for the drive.



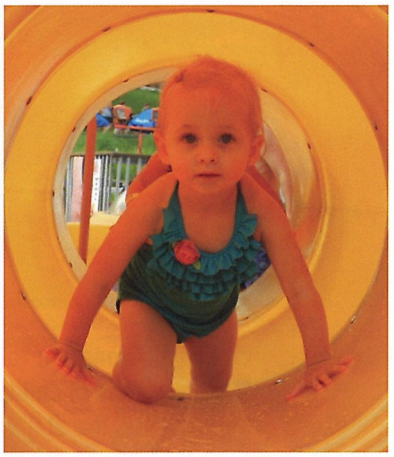


Raging Rivers fun

Over 1,000 employees, family and friends attended the annual Wood River Refinery Day at Raging Rivers Water Park held Saturday, July 30, 2011.

After weeks of a regionwide heat advisory with temperatures in the 100s, the pools, slides and toddler areas were packed, and lawn chairs all over the park were draped in ConocoPhillips beach towels. Special thanks to all those who joined us.

This year marked the largest group ever for this event. We look forward to seeing you again next year!











Jungle Disk CARBONITE Back it up. Get it back. mozyhome Dropbox

IT Connection

Home PC backups and the cloud

by Jim Shoemaker, director, Central and NW Refining IS; team lead, Refining IT Operations; and WRR site lead

There are only two kinds of hard drives: those that have already failed and those that are going to fail. Okay, that shouldn't be taken as a scare tactic. Hard drive technology is really quite reliable, and the cost for a gigabyte of storage continues to decline steadily. There is a good chance that you may replace an older hard drive just to get a bigger one before the original hard drive actually fails on you. Still, there is a lot of truth to that old saw. Fundamentally, if you have any data on your home PC that you would hate to lose, the only realistic protection is to have that data properly backed up. Note that hard-drive failure is not the only mechanism whereby your data could go bye-bye. Fire, flood, theft and accidental deletion are some other ways that you could lose your irreplaceable wedding photos, videos of your child's first steps, tax records, etc.



What kind of home backup plan should you have? One simple way to look at it is 3 - 2 - 1.

- 3: Every piece of protected data should be stored in at least three places. The original copy counts as one place, so you should think about two additional places.
- 2: Every piece of protected data should be on at least two different pieces of media. For example, if your only backup is a second copy to the same hard drive as the first copy, it won't do you much good if that hard drive fails, is destroyed by fire, etc. So you should plan to have at least one backup on different media (e.g., a different hard drive, copied to DVDs, etc.).
- 1: Every piece of protected data should have at least one off-site copy. If you back up to an external USB drive that always sits on top of your home PC, it is probably going to get destroyed in the same fire or stolen in the same burglary as the PC itself. Note that fireproof and waterproof external hard drives, such as the ioSafe Solo, are a great idea but still subject to loss via theft.

There are several ways to make home off-site backups. You could, for example, keep that large external drive and back up your data to it. But then disconnect it from your PC and drive/mail it to a trusted keeper somewhere outside your immediate neighborhood. When it is time to refresh the data (e.g., every three months), get it back again and repeat. This is simple and easy but leaves you unprotected when the off-site copy is present locally. Also, new data (pictures or whatever) created between copies is unprotected. To meet the need for more frequent, but still off-site, backups, you can also leverage the cloud. As little as five years ago, this wasn't really possible, but as the cost of home Internet has dropped and bandwidth has doubled and doubled again, all the pieces are now there for you if you want to use them.

Fundamentally, a cloud-based backup service merely copies your local data somewhere else as an off-site backup. The details vary. Most plans use their own servers to hold a copy of your data (e.g., Carbonite and Mozy Home), and others leverage third-party storage options (e.g., Zmanda uses Amazon's S3 service). At least one service (CrashPlan) lets you back up off-site to a friend's PC for free. The cost varies. Some are free for just a little bit of storage (e.g., DropBox provides 2 G of cloud storage for free), others provide tiered storage plans (e.g., Mozy Home provides 50 GB for $36/year or 125 GB for $120/year), others have a flat rate for unlimited storage for one PC (e.g., CrashPlan+ unlimited for $50/year), or even monthly billing depending on your current data usage (e.g., JungleDisk is $2/month plus $0.14/GB per month over 5 GB).

Cloud-based off-site storage has some drawbacks. Even with high-speed home Internet connections, it can take quite a while to complete an initial off-site backup over the Internet if you have a lot of data. It depends on exactly how much data you have and what your Internet connection speed is, but the initial backup of 750 GB could take nearly three months to complete. Some services (e.g., CrashPlan) offer a seeding service to dramatically reduce that time. Restoring data is potentially just as time-consuming. Different services offer different ways to get to or share your data (e.g., via a smart phone or from a different PC). Different services perform their backup at different frequency (e.g., many paid plans offer a continuous option, but a free service may be only once a day or even only when you do something manually). Only automatic backups should make your final cut. One other feature should be a requirement as you consider a cloud backup service: nothing should be transmitted across the Internet without first being encrypted on your PC (most services do this). Most services also compress and deduplicate data before it is transmitted, which is good. That reduces bandwidth consumption and the time it takes to complete a backup.

The bottom line is that if you have a decent broadband connection at home, there is really no reason not to have an off-site backup of data that you consider too precious to lose. There are many more services than have been mentioned in this article. Do some research online to narrow down your selection choices, read reviews (make sure they are relatively recent, as these services are evolving rapidly), and make a choice. Use the free trial period, if available, to see if everything works, as advertised, for you. You can enter these words in your favorite online search engine to get started: off-site backup for home users.

If the reader is curious to know what the author does at his home, it is this: I have a Windows home server that backs up every PC every night and also holds shared data like pictures; protected data is copied daily to another hard drive on a different PC at home; protected data is copied quarterly to an external hard drive stored at a friend's house in a different neighborhood (this off-site copy is encrypted); and finally, the home server content is continuously backed up by a CrashPlan+ unlimited storage subscription.

The art of Steve James

by Keesha Dhaene, Community Affairs coordinator





James' first still and attempt at painting with acrylic background. This pumpkin painting remains one of his many favorites in his personal collection.



"A Winter's Eve" painted in January 2010. James' first painting using the application of creating a snowing effect and first attempt at making a Cardinal bird.

Steve James' art can be categorized as Pure Impressionism or as part of Claude Monet's movement of "painting exactly what you see without trying to interpret it." But James' body of work demonstrates so much more – more than any $10 word can describe. Even an untrained eye can recognize great work when they see it. James' work is, all ostentatious puffery aside, extraordinary.

James is a Saturday painter. That is, he paints for the sheer enjoyment of it – on weekends when he isn't otherwise working as Environmental Operations production leader, Offsites, at Wood River Refinery. "It's just stress relief," James said, "nothing fancy." His humbleness is nearly frustrating as he insists, "Anyone can do this." After looking at his work, a statement like that is comparable to Bob Villa saying, "You yourself can build a new house; it's that easy. "That's okay, Bob. I'll leave it to those who demonstrate a true skill in the craft. Like James.

His first encounter with art began nearly three decades ago at a Bob Ross oil painting class. "My wife said to me one day, 'We're going to do this.' What choice did I have?" James laughs. His admitted reluctance almost kept him away. "I hated art in high school. I didn't understand the color wheel and just didn't get it. During the class with my wife though, I really enjoyed it, and I thought, 'OK, I get it now.' I really liked the class, but just didn't have the time back then."

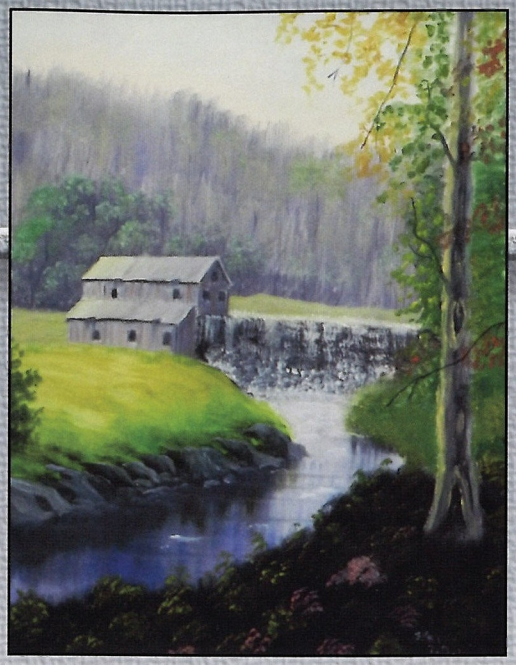


The painting that started it all. James showcases his first painting from the Bob Ross oil painting class nearly 30 years ago.

At the time, his focus was on his family. James, a Bronze Star medal recipient of the 1969-70 Vietnam War Campaign, had met his wife, Marianne, in high school and married her shortly after his 18th birthday. His first daughter, Laura, was only 9 at the time of the first painting class, and his first son, Matt, was only 5. He had begun work at Wood River Refinery only a few short years earlier. "I had my hands a bit full," he chuckles.

"Three years ago, I told my wife I was thinking about picking up the paintbrush again," James recalls. "She ended up getting me two classes for my 59th birthday, and I've been going ever since." James spends at least one Saturday a month at the A&R Paints & Crafts hobby shop in Troy, Ill. There, he studies under Jo Lair, certified Bob Ross and Dorothy Dent instructor and juried artist who has her work hanging in several local galleries. "I just do what she tells me," James jokes. "I'm still learning. There's a lot to take in – techniques; use of light, water, subjects; it's a learning every time."

To look at one of his pieces from these monthly classes, you would think James is already a master. Colors radiate from



One of James' most recent paintings, titled "Old Mill Cabin," painted in July 2011. "This painting was to impart a softer lighting background and with the forefront receiving the light," James said. "Again, rocks were a bit of a challenge, but my instructor, Jo Lair, got me started off right, and I was able to finish them off."



"Mountain Cabin" painted in March 2010.

the canvas. Reflections twinkle in the painted water. There is a depth to everything – the trees, the clouds, the rocks, the water, the smoke billowing out of the painted chimney. It all looks so real.

"All in the technique," James said. His painting is a meticulous process combining patience, skill and passion. "It all begins with perspective. You have to size the subject, transfer it on to canvas, tape it all up before you even pick up a brush," James instructs. "Everything starts in the background. You'll make your sky or tree line before moving into the forefront."

James doesn't use any fancy tools to create his artwork. His main instruments are oil paint, a paint brush, maybe a pallet knife and his own two hands, but he also uses whatever implements may be at his disposal, including dowel rods. His textural effects accurately capture whatever the subject requires, whether it is rocks, clouds or water. "You have to pile on the paint on the edges to get depth," James adds while discussing his wet-on-wet technique of painting. Wet-on-wet is a painting technique in which layers of wet paint are applied to previous layers of wet paint. James makes sure to add, "Rocks are always challenging because they require so much depth."

"Having gone through all the lessons, I now have a better appreciation for art," James explains. "Just last week, my wife and I went to the St. Charles Art Gallery, and I just got lost in it. I look at everything now and think, 'How do I paint that?'"

James' passion exceeds beyond the easel; his family remains his top devotion. In fact, discussion about his family is just about the only time James doesn't display modesty. And he has every right to be proud. "My wife and I just celebrated 43 years of marriage," he brags. "I have two biological children, Laura, now age 36, with husband Greg and my only grandchild, Abby, who is age 5. My son, Matt, now age 32, is currently an FLS with Logistics Area. He is a Marine Corps veteran and a graduate of SIUE," James beams ear-to-ear. Years after starting their family, the James' adopted two other children; Dalton, age 18, and his sister, Kalynn. At age 3, Kalynn had to have a liver transplant. The James' adopted her at 4 years old. At age 6, "She went to be with Jesus in heaven," James' recounts.

James' outlook on life, religion, family and loss echoes that of his favorite artist, Thomas Kinkade. Coined The Painter of Light™, Kinkade views art as "a very deep form of communication … Use of light generates so much hope and links consistent metaphors throughout the Bible," according to the Thomas Kinkade official website. After losing a loved one, one could think creating art showing luminosity and faithfulness would be challenging. But much like Kinkade, James work seems to place emphasis on the value of simple pleasures while communicating a form of what can only be deemed inspiration.

Landscape paintings are hung around his home and office, serving as his makeshift galleries. "I just love landscape pictures and scenery," he explains. "My goal is to one day travel the country and take pictures of lots of different landscapes to come back and paint. But I guess I have to retire first," he kids. James celebrated his 35 year anniversary at Wood River Refinery in July 2011.

Service Anniversaries

May 2011

35 years
Joe Schreiber
30 years
Evan Eberlin
Paul Willis
Anthony Cerny
20 years
Dan Langendorf
10 years
Kent Ernst
5 years
David Knetzer

June 2011

35 years
Rich Phipps
Jim Berry
David Kruckeberg
Dan Dona
Dave Cavins
Art Branch
Delbert Hines
Clyde Wiseman
30 years
John Foutch
Ron Moidel
Ray Tidwell
25 years
Joseph Sapienza
20 years
Kelly Hewlett
David Kopp
5 years
Andrew Hill
Geoffrey Kleiboeker
Jake Mongler
Daniel Mabry
Jonathan Moore
James Moynihan

July 2011

35 years
Butch Mays
Steven James
30 years
Michael Edwards
Danny Garrett
Mark Powell
Douglas Purkey
5 years
Patrick Lawlor

August 2011

35 years
Shirley Roderfeld
Roy Brito
30 years
Timothy Rogers
10 years
Babette Rollins
Tim Livingston
5 years
Terry Sona
Brian Chesnick
Jasen Zinda
Elizabeth Sabo
Douglas Bertrand
Mark Cates
Gary Bell
Keenan Loyd
Glenn Hubbard
Matthew Hartnett
Craig Harris
Mark Hanfelder
David Sullivan
Ryan McClain
Stephen Moore

Transitions



Transfers In

June 2011
James M. Piper, Director, Logistics, Offsites

July 2011
Candace L. Hanson, Cost Analyst, Routine Maintenance

New Hires

May 2011
Thomas M. Reuter, Turnaround Coordinator, Turnaround and Projects Planning
Bradley D. Smith, Turnaround Scheduler, Turnaround and Projects Planning

New Hires continued

June 2011
Loren C. Cottingham, Catalyst Coordinator, Turnaround and Projects Planning
C. Ryan Garner, Instrument Engineer, Instrument and Control Systems

July 2011
Stacey R. Gillespie, Laboratory Tester, Quality Assurance
Shawn T. Graville, Laboratory Tester, Quality Assurance

August 2011
Joseph Mann, Asphalt Analyst, Asphalt
Daniel O. Cummings, Safety Specialist, Health and Safety
Roger E. Motley, Safety Specialist, Health and Safety

Retirements

May 2011
David L. Crotchett, Operator, Aromatics East

June 2011
David P. Suess, Chemist, Quality Assurance

July 2011
Rondell L. Smith, Operator, Utilities

August 2011
Carl R. Bradley, Operator, Gas

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed to help hand out candy at any one of the local parades Wood River Refinery participates in each year. Dates of these parades are still being arranged. Further information will be sent shortly.

Parades include:

Roxana Homecoming Parade
South Roxana Halloween Parade
Wood River Halloween Parade
Hartford Halloween Parade



Bring the whole family.
Dress up if you like!
Kiddo's can ride the fire truck.
To volunteer, contact
Keesha Dhaene @ ext. 2279

Refinery Word Search winner!

Congratulations to Nathan Martincic, operator, coker north, for winning the Refinery Crossword Contest in the last *Wood River News*. Nathan shows off his prize, a Wood River Refinery Nike® DryFit Polo.



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