

# KC South Field Office Newsletter

## GSA Loses a True Friend

by: James Fotopoulos & Brad Wollard

DFAS-Kansas City represents a rich history steeped in tradition and excellence of service to the Department of Defense and more specifically, the United States Marine Corps. The site was activated on January 15, 1991, as part of the consolidation of the Service Finance Centers with the initial standup of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service. In February 1997, DFAS-KC completed consolidation of functions and personnel from 20 Defense Accounting Offices throughout the United States into Kansas City. DFAS provides Finance and Accounting Services to the Marine Corps as their primary service provider.



The DFAS-KC facility has roots of service to our nation going back to WWII with Pratt and Whitney manufacturing military aircraft engines from the same space occupied by DFAS today. In August 1967, the Marine Corps Finance Center opened its doors for business at 1500 E. Bannister Road, Kansas City, Mo., moving its operation out of the Navy Annex at Headquarters, Marine Corps, Arlington, Va.



The site's first Director was John Nabil (1991-1992). Subsequent Directors included Greg Bitz (1992-1993), Steve Turner (1993-1998), and Teresa Walker (1998-2000). Greg Bitz returned as Director in April 2000 serving until 2004. Carolyn Fortin served as Director from 2004-2006. Don Lisenby has served as Director from 2006 until site closure in 2008.

The Kansas City site employees have provided high quality finance and accounting services to the Marine Corps for 41 years touching the lives of all Marines in a positive way. Their loyalty, commitment and devotion to customer service have been in keeping with the Marine Corps motto: "Semper Fidelis."

## Bannister Complex Turns 65

by: James Fotopoulos & Brad Wollard

Before the federal government constructed the federal complex in 1942, the land was home to Kansas City's premiere wooden racetrack, which quickly proved too costly to maintain. It was World War II, however, that ultimately lead to the construction of the large facility for the manufacturing of Pratt and Whitney. More than 13,000 employees and contractors worked at the facility during its peak, post-war production times.

On July 4, 1942, following the World War II attack on Pearl Harbor, then-Senator (later President) Harry S. Truman broke ground on the site for construction of a large facility that

became home to Pratt and Whitney.

It has been reported that America's first jet engine was produced at the site. The famous Double Wasp airplane engines were manufactured for the Navy at the facility through the duration of the war effort. Following the victory in Japan, the facility was closed and remained vacant until 1947.

In 1947, the Internal Revenue Service moved operations onto the site, and in 1949 the largest portion of the plant was leased to a division of Westinghouse Electric Corporation. The plant again began producing aircraft engines, this time jet engines for the McDonnell F2H Banshee naval fighter jet, and others to be used in the Korean conflict.

The Fairfax Storage Company began using part of the Complex as a warehouse for tires, raw rubber, sugar and lumber. Westinghouse also subleased part of the plant to Bendix beginning in 1949, which later became Allied Signal. Bendix began operating the facility for the Atomic Energy Commission and building non-nuclear components for nuclear weapons.

In 1962—1965 IRS moved into Building 2306, allowing GSA to take over all of the Bannister Complex. Also in 1965, the Marine Corps made their move into the Complex. The late 1980s was another booming time for the Bannister Complex. In 1987, USDA moved into the west warehouse area. In 1988, the Department of Commerce moved on site, and in 1989 the new childcare center was opened. Now, in 2008, the Bannister Complex is happy to welcome a new tenant, the Department of Veteran Affairs.



**Congratulations to these KC South Field Office associates for 30 Years of Government Service.**

*Pictured left to right are:*

*Dee Verhulst, Clarence Taylor, Bob Beaver, Shirley Lomax and Harold Porter*

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## Bannister Complex Goes to the Cats

*by: Shanna Smith, Management Analyst*

Whether you like the felines or not, you have to admit that the Bannister Complex has gone to the cats. A large colony of cats now calls the Bannister Complex their home. Some are abandoned and some are strays, but many are feral. Feral cats are not socialized to humans and never will be. Adult feral cats are usually impossible to tame and are not suited to cohabiting with people. They have, in essence, reverted back to the wild.

The HELP Humane Society is working with a representative of the complex to help keep the cat population in check. HELP is a “no kill” animal shelter located in Belton, Mo. The volunteers from HELP are conducting a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program with the Bannister Complex cats. Through TNR, cats are painlessly secured in a trap and taken to a veterinarian, where they are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and eartipped. They are then returned to their colony site.

The cycle of breeding is stopped—no more kittens are born to the colony—resulting in a stabilization of the population. Although adoption is the best approach for stray cats and kittens, feral cats are largely unadoptable and prolific. One female feral can produce up to four litters a year with up to five kittens in each litter. In their first visit, HELP trapped 11 cats in one day—eight female and three male. Imagine if each one of those female were left unaltered. Our complex could have up to 160 kittens from the trapped cats alone! HELP is conducting this program at no cost to the Complex. If you truly want to help the Complex cats, please donate supplies, money or your time to this organization. Most importantly, educate yourself about the organization and the TNR program. You can find additional information at: [www.helppets.org](http://www.helppets.org) or [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)

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## Current KC South Field Office Projects

*by: Michelle Dellinger, Project Manager*

There are a variety of projects being completed through the South Field Office Project Management Team this year. Many are completed every year, such as the cyclical concrete and pavement project, which began the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>. You may have noticed that the landscaping around the Bannister Complex is being spruced up for the spring. The old vegetation has been removed and new plants have replaced the old. There will be some exterior painting beginning this summer to make the facilities sparkle. Interior painting is being completed in Building 2 to update the corridors. Many of the corridors in Building 1 will be painted, along with a makeover of the west lobby entrance. Damaged windows will be replaced in Building 2 in July and a gutter and roof repair will be completed at 2306 Bannister Rd.

Aside from the more visible projects, a new HVAC unit was added to Building 4, roof repairs were completed due to storm damage on Building 1, and a lightning protection system is being installed at the 8390 Ward Parkway facility. These projects are not the typical build-out projects and they often require extra time in planning and execution and can be affected greatly by the weather.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the USDA/APHIS moved into their new warehouse space in Building 41 this spring, the Marine Corps is preparing to move their “troops” into Building 2306 this summer, and we have many projects that are requested from our customers throughout the year. This keeps Project Managers David Jewel, Bud (Harold) Porter and Michelle Dellinger and the Construction Inspector, Bob Beaver busy in the South Field Office. Look for all these improvements this summer!

**Even the grass is Going Green!** Building green doesn't stop at the edge of our buildings, it extends into our landscaping, too. The Field Office is conducting a pilot program on the lawn sprinkler system at 2306 E. Bannister Road. Improvements have been made to the lawn sprinkler system including the installation of a highly efficient Hunter ET System. The ET System gathers weather data on site and continuously calculates the ideal program for our landscape.



This system allows water to be precisely targeted and delivered over lawns and flower beds. Rain sensors will automatically shut down the irrigation system to reduce unnecessary watering. The obsolete controller has been replaced with a more efficient electronic model. A weather based “smart” control system was installed to adjust watering to changing environmental conditions. This system will take the guesswork out of the irrigation schedule and will minimize water waste.

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## Doing Business With Us is Easy!

Simply call **1-877-SVC-CNTR (782-2687)** and make your service request. It's that easy! The KC South Field Office offers one-stop shopping to our tenants—one easy call to the Customer Service Center addresses mechanical and janitorial building-related issues. The calls that were previously directed to the maintenance contractor can now be made to 1-877-SVC-CNTR. Have a pest control problem? Call the KC South Field Office at 816-926-7323.

## From the Director's Desk

By: Roger Haynes, KC South Field Office Director



Going Green continues to evolve the way the South Field Office does business. Our staff has made great strides in identifying and saving energy, reducing water consumption and working to change our way of business to recapture and recycle materials that would otherwise go to the landfill. I ask of your support and also to raise awareness to turn off lights and other accessories to conserve energy whenever possible. The South Field Office is currently working on various projects on the Bannister Complex to meet the President's Executive Order 12902 on conserving energy.

Recently, GSA and childcare center staff attended the National Childcare Conference that was intended to gather all the childcare coordinators in one centralized location to discuss new processes and practices in the childcare facilities. It was also a great time to network with other childcare facility personnel and discuss best practices. The conference included training sessions to help educate and discuss new ways of doing business to help with childcare development, how to Go Green, strategic planning, teacher training and fund raising among many other topics. The conference had top notch experts to answer questions that face the childcare facilities and was very informative. Our childcare staff and GSA are dedicated to providing the best childcare facility that it can to our customers.

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## Employee Spotlight



Judy Reeves began her GSA career as a Purchasing Agent in the South Field Office in December 2007. She began her government career at Naval Air Station, Moffett Field, Calif. as a Procurement Technician in 1981. Her career progressed to Purchasing Agent for eight more years until the base closed in 1991. After that she transferred to the Onizuka Air Force Base in Sunnyvale, Calif. where she worked for two years after which she transferred to the Defense Contract Management Agency for two years.

In 1996, she decided to give the Midwest a try, so she transferred to DCMA in Gladstone, Mo. In May 2000, she was selected to a position working for the Social Security Administration at the Independence branch and worked for SSA for the next eight years. Her government service spans over 22 years with various agencies and now she works for the South Field Office, who is lucky to have her.

Judy was born in Oakland, Calif., where her father served in the Navy in Alameda, Calif. She has four siblings who live throughout the United States. She enjoys traveling the world. She makes frequent trips to the Philippines where many family members still reside. Judy also enjoys fishing, dancing, cooking and volunteering. She has a 20-year-old son who attends Blue River Community College and a 10-year-old dachshund name Hans.

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## New Bannister Tenants

The Bannister Complex is happy to announce a new arrival this last June. The Q corridor of the mall level of the Bannister Complex houses relocated staff from the VA Medical Group. The group will be processing claims for veterans in this region. VA will occupy around 10,000 square feet and bring 75 people with them to the complex. On June 19th Dan Ryan, Building Manager, gave VA a tour of their space and around the complex. A staffer from the VA stated, "We should have done this 20 years ago."



On July 2nd, the Complex conducted an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony, which was attended by members of GSA and the VA. Top personnel from the VA and GSA, including Brad Scott, Dr. Peter L. Amenoff, Kent Hill and Stan Utlej, who all said a few words about the great transition of the VA moving to the Bannister Complex.

GSA is excited to have new tenants and the Field Office is here to help them achieve their mission.

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## Q&A—You ask, we listen

- 1.) How do I reserve the Plaza Auditorium?** - Call Shirley Lomax at 816-926-3708. It is available on a first-come-first-served basis and is available Monday—Friday 6:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
- 2.) Is there a Health Unit located at Bannister?** - The Health Unit is located on the basement level and is open Monday—Friday 7:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
- 3.) What are the Café's hours of operation?** - The Café is open Monday—Friday, excluding federal holidays, from 6:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. for breakfast and 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. for lunch.



## Environmental News

*by: Aaron McHenry, Recycle Custodial, Arc-Tech*

If you're not convinced that recycling is important, plan a trip to your local landfill so you can fully appreciate the amount of trash that we discard as a society. What is encouraging is that that recycling is an easy and convenient alternative.

At the Bannister Federal Complex, we are stepping up our efforts to reuse and recycle. In addition to white office paper and aluminum cans, the Complex is now collecting mixed paper items such as magazines, office paper wrap, colored paper, newspapers, file folders, as well as plastic bottles.

Additional disposal containers at various locations have been placed throughout the Complex so it's easy and convenient to help out. Please join us in our efforts to help keep the environment clean and beautiful for years to come!

## Farmers Market Back at Bannister

*by: Dee Verhulst, 2306 & Building 41 Building Manager*

The KC South Field Office kicked off the ninth year of the Bannister Farmers Market on June 10. The market provides free space for vendors with products they grow or produce. This joint effort between GSA, USDA and DOE serves the local federal community as well as the general public.



The market is open Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. until September 30<sup>th</sup>. Donation of food items purchased at the market will be accepted in support of USDA's Food Recovery to Help the Hungry program. Proceeds from the sales of food will benefit the Combined Federal Campaign. Please support your local growers by shopping the market.

## Salutations from the Café!

*by: Cory Everson, Café Food Service Director*

Over the last couple of weeks there have been some changes around the Café. The menu has been updated with some newer, healthier items and other items have been removed. The new Self-Service Deli Bar allows you to create your own sandwich. The sandwich price is determined by the weight just like the salad bar and they are also priced the same. By making this change to the deli sandwich selection, customers have a new convenient way to get lunch on the go. Another addition to the menu is the chicken wrap. It was a hit as a Daily Special, and is even a bigger hit as an everyday item. You can get this wrap with either grilled or home-style chicken. However, the selection of toppings for the wrap have made it slightly more expensive.

If you have questions about the Café, my door is always open, or you can visit our website, [www.aramarkcafe.com/gsa](http://www.aramarkcafe.com/gsa) and leave feedback. Thank you for your patronage.

## Safety Tips—Summer Fun Brings More Emergency Room Visits

*By: James Fotopoulos (Adopted from U.S. Consumer Products and Safety Commission Website (CPSC))*

More than 3.7 million consumers went to hospital emergency rooms with product-related injuries in June-August 2001—an increase of about 836,000 injuries over spring 2001. CPSC advises everyone to enjoy summer activities with safety in mind.

- Wear a helmet and other safety gear when biking, skating, skateboarding, and when riding scooters, all-terrain vehicles, and horses. Studies show that helmets reduce risk of injury by 85%.
- Use layers of protection to prevent a swimming pool tragedy. This includes placing barriers completely around your pool to prevent access, using door and pool alarms, closely supervising your child and being prepared in case of an emergency.
- Never bring charcoal grills indoors. Burning charcoal produces deadly carbon monoxide.
- Make sure your home playground is safe. Falls cause 60% of playground injuries, so having a safe surface is critical. Concrete, asphalt or packed dirt surfaces are too hard. Use at least nine inches of wood chips or mulch.
- Movable soccer goals can fall over and cause injury. Make sure the goal is anchored securely at all times and never allow anyone to climb on the net or goal framework or hang from the cross bar. Remove nets when the goals are not in use.

## KC South Field Office Points of Contact



**Customer Service Center**  
1-877-SVC-CNTR (782-2687)

**8930 Building Manager**  
Larry Coleman—(816) 823-1191

**General Information**  
(816) 926-7323

**Bannister Complex Building Manager**  
Crystal Powers—(816) 823-1947

**Field Office Director**  
Roger Haynes—(816) 823-2205

**Deputy Field Office Director**  
Dan McEntee—(816) 926-7670

**2306 & Bldg 41 Bldg Manager**  
Dee Verhulst—(816) 333-5413