



B · R · E · A · K · I · N · G

# New Ground

Winter/  
Spring  
2006

## NEW APPLICATION PUTS JULIE ON THE MAP

For years, the management team at JULIE, Inc. and the Board of Directors have evaluated the pros and cons of incorporating a mapping application into the ticket taking process. In the past, factors such as high implementation costs, unreliable map data and computer processing limitations pushed JULIE, Inc. to look for ways other than mapping to calculate grids, verify jobsites and keep non-conflict notices to members to a minimum. Over time, however, advancements in GIS technology have improved to the point where providing JULIE operators with a map tool to assist with the locate request process has become much more feasible. As a result, the JULIE Board of Directors recently voted to purchase Norfield Data Products Newtin with Mapping application.

“A lot of people have been waiting for mapping for a long time,” said Director of Computer Operations **Greg Fisch**. “Operators will be able to pinpoint on or draw a polygon around a jobsite on a map. The result will be an overall reduction of quarter-section grids on tickets, which will ultimately reduce the number of unnecessary locates sent to JULIE members who are not involved at the dig site.” Excavators who use Web Remote Ticket Entry will have access to the same map tool as the JULIE operators.

Another major benefit of the Newtin Mapping system is that members can move away from the quarter-section notification method. Members who have geo-coded their facilities can provide this data to JULIE in the form of shape files and have this data replace the quarter-section data as the ‘area of notification’ for their company. For those members who have not geo-coded their facilities, the mapping system provides the ability for members to hand-draw polygons around their facilities and have these polygons replace the section grids.

“Creating polygons that encompass facilities is a simple procedure using the new mapping system,” said Database Manager **Debi Andre**. “We plan on spending a lot of time training and assisting members who want to move from grid to polygon lookup.”

In addition to purchasing the new system, the Board also accepted a motion to impose a member message rate adjustment in 2007. The adjustment is expected to be determined this March and is intended to offset the expected decrease in revenue that will result from the reduction of outbound message delivery to JULIE members once the mapping platform is in place.

The Newtin Mapping system is scheduled for installation in the spring. Members interested in moving to polygon lookup should be able to do so by late summer. WRTE users can anticipate seeing the mapping application later this year.

Contributing: Greg Fisch, JULIE, Inc.

## DIG INFORMATION NO LONGER HISTORY

JULIE, Inc. recently announced a new service that allows members to access historical dig information via the Internet on a Long Term Ticket Storage Server. This easy-to-use Web site allows users to retrieve dig numbers as far back as five years. Members can view tickets or print copies.

“In the past, public works directors, damage prevention coordinators, claims department representatives and member coordinators would have to call the Data Department to request searches and copies of tickets,” said Greg Fisch. “Now, interested parties looking for tickets have immediate access to all of their tickets online.”

Access to the Long Term Ticket Storage Server is available to JULIE members at no charge. The data is password protected to restrict usage by non-JULIE members and to ensure confidentiality. Users wishing to use this service should contact the JULIE Data Department at 815-741-5011 to obtain instructions and logon account information.

## Save the Date

Board Meeting	March 22
Annual Meeting	April 28
Midwest Locate Rodeo	June 29
Board Meeting/Golf Outing	July 20-21
Board Meeting	November 15

# 2005-06 JULIE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

## **Board President**

Tom Stutzman ComEd

## **Board of Directors**

Gary Stewart Trunkline Gas

Gene Barney Leaf River Telephone

Chuck Mueller AmerenIP

Steve Meyer City of Aurora

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Jan Modaff Nicor Gas

Kim Favero Petersburg Plumbing and Heating

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Gary Klein Laser Construction

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Roger Baldwin Verizon

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Bill Lincoln Retired

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Kent Kowalski AmerenCILCO

## **Secretary**

Fred Kreinbrink City of Naperville

**Mark A. Frost, Executive Director**

# quick digs



## **NEW TRAINING CONCEPT UNVEILED IN MANTENO**

The World of Training is a new concept in underground training that allows students to choose the instructional format in Manteno, Illinois.

Brought to you by Planet Underground Interactive and held in tandem with Dig Big and the Midwest Utility Locate Rodeo, these educational tracks will be held June 27-28. Each track qualifies for CEUs. For more details, visit [www.underspace.com](http://www.underspace.com).

## **CAMPAIGN REACHES HOMEOWNERS**

Fourteen percent of JULIE's annual call volume is from homeowners. Our spring media placement campaign is ready to go and staff will distribute educational information at several home and garden show booths as part of our ongoing safety campaign. For a complete listing of events and locations, visit our Web site.

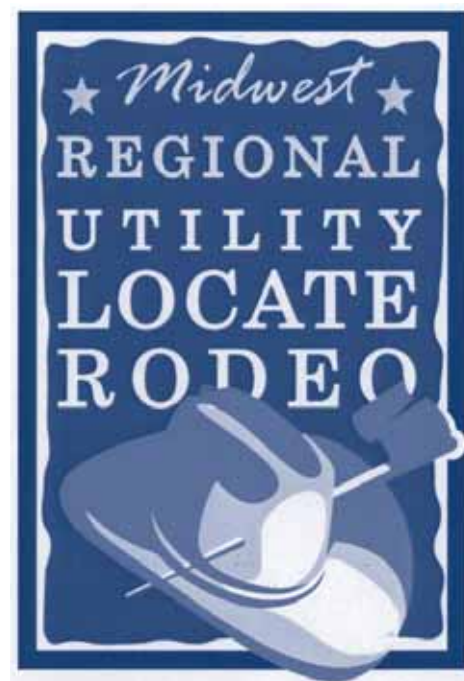
## **QUALITY FIRST**

At organizational meetings, Executive Director Mark Frost announced that, "Quality is Everyone's Responsibility" would be the overall theme of JULIE, Inc. in 2006. With this in mind, we are working on a number of internal and external initiatives with a focus on quality. Some of these initiatives will be highlighted in future editions of our publications.

## **LET'S RODEO**

Shouldn't your team step into the spotlight? The industry's high visibility, high impact, high profile event is coming to Illinois this year. JULIE, Inc. is the proud sponsor of the inaugural Midwest Utility Locate Rodeo. The Locate Rodeo will be held on June 29 in Manteno.

Winners of the Midwest Utility Locate Rodeo will be eligible to participate in the International Utility Locate Rodeo in Atlanta, Georgia later this summer. For information on participating, volunteering or sponsoring the event, please visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com) or contact David Van Wy at 847-963-0387.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Southern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Aux Sable Liquid Products, Bit Wise Communications, Winding Creek Estates Water Association and Harrisburg Community School District #3.**

# RECORD YEAR FOR CALLS

## Annual Call Volume Increases 70 Percent Over 10 Years

Over the past 10 years, the number of underground utility locate requests from professional excavators and homeowners to JULIE, Inc. has increased over 70 percent in the state of Illinois, according to representatives of JULIE, Inc. Since its inception in 1974, JULIE, Inc. has logged over 16.6 million calls and its annual call volume makes it one of the largest industry one-call systems in the United States.

JULIE, Inc. received a record 1.22 million underground utility locate requests from excavators in 2005. The notification system reached another milestone by distributing over 7.94 million requests to its 1,700 utility members during the same period. Compared to the previous year, these totals represent approximate increases of two and three percent, respectively.

"While this increase in call volume is significant, careless digging continues to pose a threat to people and to underground facilities," said **Mark A. Frost**, executive director of JULIE, Inc. "JULIE, Inc. stresses the importance of calling the one-call system through its proactive public safety and education campaign. A call to JULIE, Inc. helps to ensure that underground facilities are properly located and marked."

In addition, more than 38 percent of the locate requests were entered directly by members and professional excavators via Web Remote Ticket Entry, a unique service that allows access to the JULIE system for frequent users.

### Top 10 Call Volume Counties in Illinois

County	YTD Totals	Percentage
1. Cook	206,057	16.81%
2. Will	119,409	9.74%
3. DuPage	117,773	9.61%
4. Lake	94,612	7.72%
5. Kane	72,309	5.90%
6. McHenry	47,665	3.89%
7. St. Clair	40,844	3.33%
8. Winnebago	34,739	2.83%
9. Madison	34,358	2.80%
10. Kendall	34,304	2.80%

2005

## AN INTEGRAL PART OF A GROWING COMMUNITY

The Village of Chatham is located five miles south of Springfield on Illinois Route 4. "Boasting a population of 8,500, the rapidly growing community continues to expand at a fast pace," said **Del McCord**, Director of Utilities and Administration. "We have seen our population increase more than 40 percent in the past ten years and JULIE has become an important part of the way we work. JULIE gives us an added layer of control in the protection of our utility services and ensures the safety of excavators doing work in our community."

Chatham offers municipal water, sewer and electric distribution services to its residents. "Because of our growth, we have a great deal of excavation activity in our community and JULIE is an integral part of the growth process," added **Meredith Branham**, Chatham's Public Works Director. An experienced utility manager, Branham stated that he is also looking forward to the increased use of GPS. "The increased reliance of GPS data enhances efficiency and precision for both facility owners and excavators," Branham said.

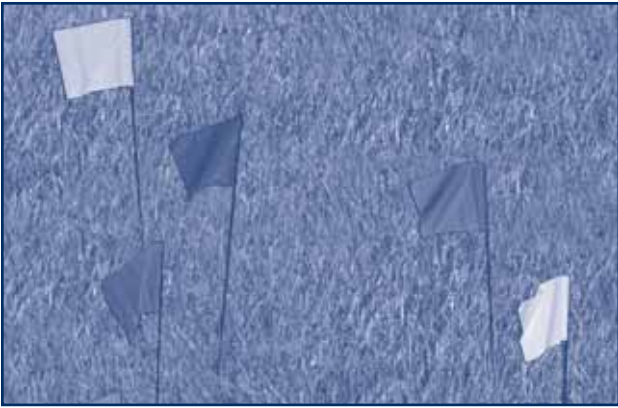
McCord said another advantage of utilizing JULIE for communities such as Chatham is that, "JULIE gets the word out and promotes safe excavation practices. JULIE's promotional efforts reduce our advertising expense and reach a far greater audience among the excavation community." McCord and Branham both said that JULIE's statewide presence helps to reduce facility damage for both local excavators and contract excavators from outside their local area.

Contributing: Dale Kuhn, JULIE, Inc.



Dale Kuhn (center) discusses JULIE policies with Del McCord (left) and Meredith Branham (right) during a recent coordinator visit with the Village of Chatham.

# PLAYING BY THE RULES



## MARKING IN BLACK AND WHITE

In 2005, approximately 20 percent of the locate requests processed through the JULIE system stated that the area of excavation was pre-marked prior to the request. Through this practice, the caller helped improve the quality of the process on more than 245,000 requests by asking the facility locator to mark only those lines that are physically in conflict with the work scheduled to be performed in the area.

### USING OTHER COLORS

One issue of concern is the color that some companies are using to pre-mark the site. According to the Illinois Underground Utilities Facilities Damage Prevention Act, excavators are to use safety white (black when snow is on the ground) to mark their proposed excavation. Unfortunately, some companies and utilities are causing confusion at the work site by using red, yellow, orange, blue and other colors to pre-mark.

"A facility owner is acting as an excavator when they are pre-marking a site, though the color that may be handy is the color they use to mark their facilities in response to a locate request," said JULIE's Damage Prevention Manager **David Van Wy**. "The problem is that this process leaves old marks in a facility color that the next excavator to work at that site needs to question. If all pre-marking is done using white paint, the next excavator to work in that area does not see additional facility colors and can work without a second call to JULIE for clarification of marks."

For additional information about pre-marking your site, contact the Damage Prevention Manager in your area.

*Contributing: David Van Wy, JULIE, Inc.*

Do representatives from your company and its subcontractors call in their own locate requests before digging? According to **Bill Riley**, manager of JULIE Enforcement at the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), the greatest number of reports received last year was for failing to call JULIE, Inc.

Statistics released by the ICC indicated that almost 75 percent of the incident reports submitted by utilities were for no valid locate request ticket. Incident reports submitted by excavators and others showed 45 percent were for failure to mark in 48 hours.

Based on this information, JULIE representatives recently asked Riley to provide recommendations. The following is a summary of his comments:

- A call to JULIE is necessary for any digging.
- You cannot dig on someone else's locate request.
- JULIE Tickets have an expiration date. Excavators should ensure that they have a procedure to track expiration dates and request extensions when necessary.
- Refresh requests or no-shows do not extend the life of a ticket.
- You must wait 48 hours after submission of your locate request before excavating.
- Potholing is NOT optional – An excavator CANNOT know the location of a utility without potholing. Using heavy equipment in the tolerance zone without potholing is a violation of the state law.
- Always check your location and extent before excavation.

He also suggested for those using WRTE to get a copy of the locate request ticket into the hands of the excavation crew. The crew will then know the dig number; location and extent of the locate request; allowable work date; utilities notified; and the ticket expiration date.

"Knowing and verifying this information before excavating will avoid many potential problems," Riley said.

Penalties collected by the ICC in 2005 were over \$37,000. All penalties recovered in any action are distributed as a grant to JULIE, Inc. for safety and informational programs (i.e. excavator safety meetings, locate training sessions, etc.) to reduce the number of incidents of damage to underground facilities in Illinois.

### ICC Appointments

The Commission made the following appointments to fill the expiring terms of the Municipal and Utility positions on the Underground Damage Prevention Advisory Committee:

Municipal: **Michael Reynolds**, Village of Arlington Heights

Utility: **Dave Conover**, AT&T Midwest

For more information, visit our Web site for a link to the ICC.

# PARTNERS IN SAFETY

JULIE, Inc. and its members hosted a series of excavator safety meetings across the state this winter. Over 5,000 contractors and member representatives attended the presentations. **Mike Parilac** of The Planet Underground served as the guest speaker.

We appreciate the ongoing support of our members and statewide organizations, including the Northern and Central Illinois Pipeline Association. The association provided the \$100 cash prize at each meeting.

We would also like to thank our alliance partners from OSHA and the State of Illinois Onsite Safety and Health Consultation Program for participating in the meetings. This alliance promotes workplace safety and health, particularly in reducing and preventing exposure to underground utility hazards and related issues.



*Buckeye Partners*



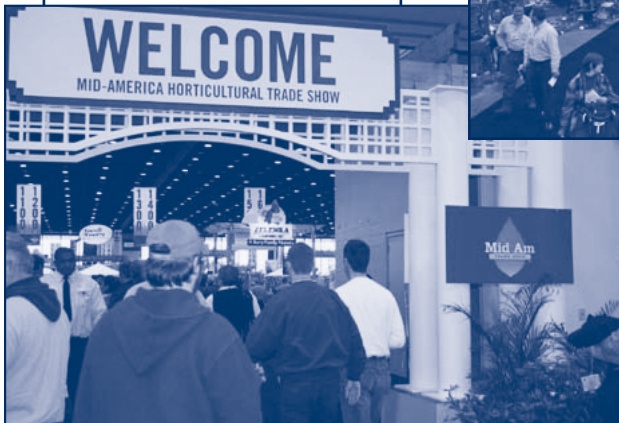
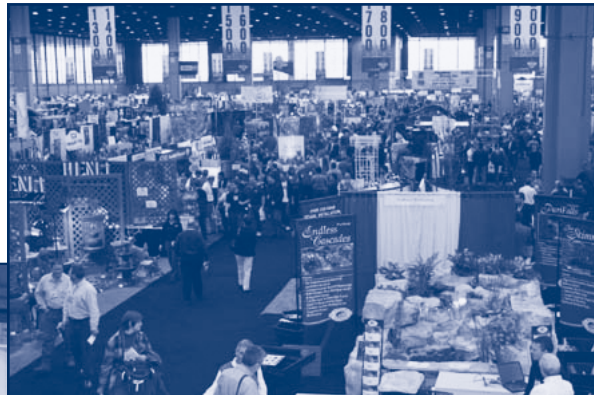
*Door Prize Winner –  
Kankakee Valley Construction*



*The Planet Underground*



**A Hot Show in the Winter**  
*JULIE, Inc. representatives recently distributed information to attendees of the Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show in Chicago. The show is sponsored by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Assn., Illinois Nurserymen's Assn. and Wisconsin Green Industry Federation.*



# BEST DIGGERS LIST

With the implementation of several changes to the state law, one of JULIE's most popular educational items has been updated for 2006. Over 15,000 free copies of the latest edition of the Excavator Handbook have already been requested and shipped to members and contractors. The number of requests for safety presentations has also increased sharply.

To request a speaker from JULIE, Inc. or to order copies of the handbook and any other safety materials at no cost, please visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com). At the site, you can either 1) order materials directly online or 2) print out an order form that you can complete and fax back to JULIE, Inc. If you do not have access to JULIE's Web site, please call the Public Relations Department at 815-741-5935.

### Spread the Word

Are you looking for a way to share this publication with your coworkers? Over 50

percent of our members now receive publications and other materials from the Public Relations Department via e-mail. Spread the latest news and sign up today at [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com). For more information, call **Barb Huff** at 815-741-5936.



# JULIE ON-LINE

Have a question about the JULIE system? Interested in a safety presentation? The answers are just a few clicks away. The Web site address is [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

Benefits include:

- State Law and JULIE Policies
- ICC Enforcement Process Link
- Utility Company Contacts
- Free Safety Materials
- Member List
- Upcoming Meetings and Events
- Frequently Asked Questions
- JULIE Board and Staff Directory

Please bookmark this site and visit frequently for the latest news!

[www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com)

GRAPHIC DESIGN BY THE GAMMON GROUP

CHMURA@ILLINOIS1CALL.COM

KEVIN CHMURA, EDITOR, AT 815/741-5000 OR

COMMENTS AND STORY IDEAS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO

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THE CONTENTS IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE FOR

THE JULIE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

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NEW APPLICATION PUTS

Scoop...

The Inside

ILLINOIS ONE-CALL SYSTEM

**JULIE**

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