

Fulton County Public Works Quarterly Newsletter

Connections

Summer 2021



FULTON
COUNTY



Public Works Week 2021

Celebrating a year of essential work that
COVID-19 couldn't put on pause

SAVE THE DATE!
**SepticSmart
Week 2021**
September 20-24, 2021



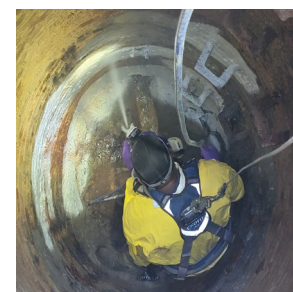
Tom Lowe WTP
Celebrates 30 years of
serving North Fulton



Public Works Wins 2
NACo Award
categories



Fulton County
Executive Airport
updates facility



Spray liners improve
I & I conditions in
wastewater system

Public Education and
Outreach celebrates
Septic Smart Month



Septic Smart Week
 September 20th-24th

Be Septic Smart in the Month of September

The EPA's Septic Smart Week focuses on educating homeowners and communities on the proper care and maintenance of their septic systems. In commemoration of Septic Smart Week, the Public Education and Outreach (PEO) group will be hosting our fall Septic System Maintenance Workshop for Homeowners, on Thursday, September 23rd from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. This workshop is hosted in partnership with our local Fulton County cities, and will feature experts from the Fulton County Board of Health.



Tips and best practices for maintaining your septic system will be covered in this engaging virtual workshop. Past workshop participants have stated that the information provided is invaluable, and help homeowners build confidence around how to best manage their property and protect the water quality of nearby water sources. One homeowner said, "It is nice to have unbiased experts share their time on an intimidating topic like this."

To register for this workshop, please complete the form provided here: <https://forms.gle/8wpix4MoRuqGvF8u7>
 For more information about this topic and other workshops, please contact Kelli L. Edwards at Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov

Public Works By the Numbers April - June 2021		
Water Resources	30.25 MGD	Total Potable Water Distributed (average day)
	8.84%	Non-Revenue Water (annualized)
	172	Small Meters Replaced
	48.82 MGD	Total Wastewater Treated (average day)
	97.98 Acres	Sewer Easement Cleared
	13.42 MG	Reuse Water Provided (JCEC)
	15.3 MG	Reuse Water Provided (Little River)
	634	Water and Sewer Service Applications Processed
	3 YTD: 7	Sewer Overflows >10,000 gallons (major spill)
	10 YTD: 18	Sewer Overflows <10,000 gallons (minor spill)
82,850	People Reached by PEO Staff	
Airport Services	67%	Airport Master Plan Development Progress
	40,126	Aircraft Operations YTD
FID Transportation Operations	16	Drainage Structures Cleared
	227	Facility Signs Fabricated
	27 Tons	Litter Picked Up
Development Permits	6	Traffic Signals Maintained
	25	Utility Plans Approved
	109	Utility Projects Under Construction
	10	End of Maintenance Inspections Conducted



Upcoming Department Quarterly Meetings

WROC/Big Creek: Tuesday, August 24th @ 2:30 pm

SFMOC/Airport: Thursday, August 26th @ 7:30 am

Gov't Center: Friday, August 27th @ 11:00 am



A Message from the Director

David E. Clark, P.E.

When I sat down to write this in early July, I made a promise that this quarter's edition would not have the word COVID in it. However, that will just not be possible. But I will push it to the end.

By the time you are reading this, the Incremental Compensation Strategy (ICS) is now in effect. I will be the first to admit it is not going to solve all of the pay challenges, but it is a good step in the right direction. Years of service to a single employer and the experience that one obtains during those years needs to be recognized. There is something within any employment setting called "institutional knowledge" that can only come with time and is vital for the success of an employer. Institutional knowledge becomes readily apparent during the middle of an emergency. It is shown by that 20+ year employee who knows exactly where the shut-off valve or force main location is, regardless what the GIS map says, at 2 a.m. while staff are scrambling to isolate and stop a leak. Public Works, in particular, must value and reward that institutional knowledge because it does make all of us do our jobs more efficiently. So to those that have received a significant increase in your salary due to your years of service under the ICS program, congratulations and thank you for your years of service to Fulton County and, in particular, Public Works. For the rest of us, including myself, without as many years of service, Human Resources continues to look at the overall pay scale and are working towards an adjustment to it to better reflect current market rates. More on that will be coming out as part of the budget development process over the next few months.

Finally, COVID. After a great spring and early summer of tremendous decreases in new cases, the first two weeks of July have abruptly reversed that trend and new cases are on a steep rise. Currently, based on the vaccine bonus payouts processed, only 52% of all Fulton County employees are vaccinated. We do not know names or departments, due to HIPAA laws, but that number is way too low. Hopefully, you and your family are taking advantage of all the free vaccine sources. No one likes shots, but COVID-19 and its continued impact on our lives are worse, in my opinion. So please #vaxup Fulton!

Public Works Week 2021



Stronger Together

Public Works Staff celebrated National Public Works Week May 17-21, 2021. While our schedule of events this year remained under the effects of COVID-19 and limited the in-person public events hosted by the department, our staff met the return of the Employee Training and Equipment Rodeo with excitement and appreciation.

The week started off with a promotional video release highlighting various staff and divisions of the department. This video can be viewed on the Fulton County Government Facebook videos page. On Tuesday, May 18th, staff members hosted meet and greet display tables at the North Fulton Customer Service Center in Alpharetta and the Fulton County South Service Center in College Park. Citizens visiting these centers were able to talk with Public Works staff and ask questions about the essential services provided for citizens and the programs offered as public education and outreach while enjoying a snack and some fun giveaway items! The Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognized Fulton County Public Works with a proclamation on Wednesday morning and visitors to the building and meeting were able to talk with staff at an information table outside of the newly renovated assembly hall. Thursday was the big event at Johns Creek Environmental Campus! The majority of the department's staff were able to come together for a beautiful day outdoors with activities, lunch, and the famous equipment rodeo. It was a day of celebrating a year of working to maintain the essential services for Fulton County citizens, in spite of the challenges centered around response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The week wrapped up with an employee-led service project where staff marked storm drains in the Fulton Industrial District and participated in a litter cleanup. These events provided our staff an opportunity to provide beneficial improvements to communities in Fulton County that are both educational and improve the environmental water quality of nearby streams and the Chattahoochee River.

The Public Works Week committee would like to extend a very big THANK YOU to the staff and partners that helped make this celebration such a success!!



Find more photos from the Public Works Week Employee Appreciation Celebration at the Fulton County External Affairs SmugMug account. www.fulco.smugmug.com

Public Works recognized by the National Association of Counties



Fulton County Public Works Department is the recipient of two 2021 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Awards. NACo announced the award-winning counties in June and winners were recognized at its 2021 Annual Conference and Exposition July 9th -12th in Prince George’s County, Maryland.

Honored under the County Resiliency: Infrastructure, Energy and Sustainability was the project by Technical Services, Modernization of the Little River Water Reclamation Facility. The need to expand plant capacity combined with more restrictive permitting parameters served as an opportunity to further improve the water quality of the effluent by implementing MBR (membrane bio-reactor) technology. After years of planning, engineering studies and public meetings, construction on the plant expansion began in 2017 and was completed in early 2021. The expansion has resulted in reduced odor emissions, along with reduced pollutant discharges to the river, even at the higher flow capacity.



In the Civic Education and Public Information category, Public Works PEO Team’s “Reimagining Public Education and Outreach in a Covid-19 World” submission was recognized for ensuring quality water education programming was provided to our residents during the ongoing pandemic. By identifying web-based, video conferencing platforms and utilizing social media, the Team developed a comprehensive outreach program spanning all 15 cities within the County and reaching residents in and across all demographics.



NACo recognized 844 entries from counties and state associations in 28 states. Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Awards program is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America’s 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public’s understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service.

Congratulations to Public Works for once again establishing itself as a leader among its peers across the country.



Out with the old. In with the new.



As the airport continues to move forward with its development program, old blighted properties are being removed to make way for new high tech facilities. In the pictures above, you can see what used to be the Skyway Motel being razed to make way for new development along Aviation Circle. Fingers are crossed that the old site of the motel will become the site for a new restaurant. Also pictured is the first vertical construction along the new Sandy Creek Rd. This is a state of the art hangar facility that will house Norfolk Southern's business jet fleet, flight crews, and staff. This hangar is scheduled to be completed this fall.

Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant 30th Anniversary



The Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant (TLAFCWTP) which has been in operation since 1991, officially celebrated its 30th Anniversary on Saturday, May 15th. On Friday, May 21st, the Atlanta-Fulton County Water Resources Commission's (AFCWRC) hosted a Ceremony to recognize this milestone.

The facility has an incredible track record of providing clean, safe drinking water to more than 300,000 residential and commercial customers in Fulton County. Additionally, the facility has consistently been recognized among the water industry for its award winning water.

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Fulton County Commissioners Liz Hausmann, Bob Ellis and Atlanta City Council President Felicia Moore all recognized and thanked the Public Works staff and partners Khafra/Veolia who help make clean, safe water accessible for the community.

A recording of the virtual tour of the TLAFCWTP can be found on the Fulton County Government Facebook page.

Taken for granted

If you query your online browser requesting a list of things most Americans take for granted a reoccurring item continually makes the top ten : access to clean drinking water. It is easy to take for granted this comfort of life we have become accustomed to. That is in part due to the reliable service many regional authorities and municipalities have afforded us. Water tanks are one of the major components within distribution systems that service providers rely on most to promote this luxury.



Most of us are familiar with the Big Peach, the Chick-fil-A tower, or the logos, mascots and businesses these facilities have traditionally showcased. The most important function of all these tanks is ensuring clean, great tasting and aesthetically pleasing potable water is provided to all our customers at a usable pressure.

Fulton County's water system has 12 storage tanks over 6 sites for a total volume of 14.7 million gallons. Our tanks range in size with the smallest tank at 200,000 gallons to our largest being a 4,000,000 gallon ground tank. Our tanks come in two configurations (ground and elevated) and are either made of steel or concrete. Each of these materials have their inherit pros and cons. The majority of Fulton County's tanks are comprised of steel which is susceptible to corrosion over time if not properly coated. Freeze/thaw cycles along with sulfate attacks are the most common issues faced by concrete tanks. The science behind storage tanks is pretty straight forward. We pump water up to some high point and allow the potential energy due to that head difference to act as a pressure control for the area it serves.

Keeping the surface coatings in good shape promote the protection of the inside surfaces of the tanks. This prevents those surfaces that come into direct contact with your potable water from deterioration and corrosion. The type of coating utilized has the ability to provide either a physical or chemical barrier between the water and the interior tank siding. Corrosion presents itself as a dual threat in that it shortens the life cycle of the tank structure but also puts at risk the drinking water through potential contamination.

The Technical Services and Water Distribution Divisions are working together to advertise a competitive bid to recoat our Jones Bridge and our Alpharetta/Preston Ridge tank sites. The major elements of those projects will include recoating the exterior and interior surfaces along with providing/updating the cathodic protection of those facilities. This project is currently slated to be awarded and started later this fall, during the off-peak season of water use.

Fulton County tanks are not adorned with elaborate paint schemes, sales pitches, or mascots but they do and will continue to reflect the care and importance we place on providing top quality potable water.

If you are further interested in this topic please consider the following sources:

- NSF/ASTM Standard 61: Drinking Water System Components
- NSF/ASTM Standard 60: Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals
- <https://www.pttg.com/elevated-water-storage-tanks/>
- <https://phoenixtank.com/elevated-water-storage-productscomposite-elevated-water-tank/elevated-steel-water-tank/>

Innovations in sewer maintenance provide quick improvements

In a day and time where technology is ever changing and the old ways of doing things are few and far between, the staff within the Sewer Division still do some of both. We still have to shovel mud in ditches and trench boxes as well as enter filthy manholes to unstop sewer lines along with numerous other dirty jobs. That type of work just goes along with the territory.

For years, the majority of our work has been Preventive Maintenance (PM) type work and some limited Corrective Maintenance (CM) work, leaving the majority of the CM work in the hands of contractors. Our contractors have employees that are specially trained for this type of maintenance work and have specialized equipment to do work that we have traditionally not done.

In recent years, manhole and sewer line inspections as well as a robust flow monitoring system, has confirmed that we have significant Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) problems. So our priorities shifted with this new data. Our scope of work changed. We found that in order to combat our I & I issues we would need to start an I & I reduction program. We would need to rehab manholes and sewer pipes that are allowing outside water from rain storms and the environment into our system. Sealing these structures would be our focus. Enter our new spray liner equipment.

Deputy Director Barnes was instrumental in helping us acquire a piece of equipment that is specifically designed to spray an epoxy coating onto the inside of manhole walls. This product is a part A and B epoxy that mixes together in a manifold and sprayed through a hand gun. It adheres to the wall of the manhole and makes it water tight as well as firms up the structure. We are the first municipality in Georgia to use this technique. This innovative equipment gives us the opportunity to combat our I & I issues in-house when we find problems and not have to wait on a contractor to fit the repair into their schedule.

After training on this equipment and working out a few kinks, we are lining manholes on a regular basis.

Over time this work will make a significant improvement on our I & I issues. We are already seeing some reduction in infiltration following heavy rain events where the spray liners have been installed.



Education: A Solution to Stormwater Pollution



Although we have begun to resume some normalcy with limited in-person environmental education programs, Public Education and Outreach Group is still offering some environmental education programs to the community virtually. On Wednesday, July 14th the PEO group hosted our 2nd stormwater education workshop of the year which took place via Zoom. Participants learned about the difference between point source and nonpoint source pollution, as well as how Fulton County works with the state and local municipalities to manage stormwater. Additional information was provided to all workshop participants about our community programs designed to reduce stormwater runoff and eliminate sources of environmental pollution.

For more information about our next stormwater education virtual workshop or ways to get involved, please contact Kelli L. Edwards at Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov

Welcome New Employees!

Deborah Hughes - Maintenance Worker

Michael Gross - Maintenance Worker

Jack Long - Environmental Water Technician

Shondra Turner - Accountant II

Juliet Dawson-Dyce - Administrative Coordinator I

Congratulations Retirees!

Virginia Hardy

Gwen Brinkley

Promotions

Alberto Bechara - Engineering Administrator

Khalid Ahmad - Management Policy Analyst III

Cynthia Dang - Microbiologist

Travis Proctor - Superintendent Water and Sewer I

Reginald Fuller - Utility Locate Coordinator

Ryan Rucker - Crew Supervisor Senior Water/Sewer

Dewayne Nash - Meter Services Supervisor

Isaiah Lee - Crew Supervisor Senior Water/Sewer

Bennies Willis - Material & Asset Supervisor