



CONNECTIONS

Fulton County Public Works' Quarterly Newsletter



Before



After



Photo Courtesy of External Affairs

Fulton County Public Works Extends a Helping Hand to Our Neighbors

By: Wyvern Budram

On March 26, 2021 a powerful EF4 tornado travelling 174 miles per hour swept across the City of Newnan and destroyed several homes, businesses and schools. Uprooted trees, downed power lines, and debris from damaged buildings were scattered throughout the city streets.

The City of Newnan encountered problems providing emergency services in some areas and reached out to Fulton County's Public Works Department for assistance in clearing debris blocking the streets.

A combined team of employees including Cornelius Christon, Dwight Morrow, Rodney Walker and Cody Tolleson from the Transportation Services and South Fulton Sewer Maintenance Divisions brought equipment to the City of Newnan to assist with recovery efforts. They were responsible for clearing streets, providing access to Newnan High School and spent two days removing and disposing 120 cubic yards of debris.

County Manager, Dick Anderson, visited the site to observe the operations being conducted to clear and clean up debris in the area. The Fulton County crew was then treated to lunch by the County Manager at Sprayberry's Barbecue.

Thank you to the team members who assisted with helping out our neighbors in such a desperate time of need. You are making Public Works proud! Although we know you may not need the thank you, we believe it is important to show our gratitude for our essential workers going above and beyond.

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Director's Corner

By: David Clark



Normalcy is returning, trust me.

I hope that all of you have gotten your vaccines. Personally, I was blown away on how well the operation was at Mercedes Benz stadium. It took me longer to snake my way through the cones to the parking deck than it took for the check-in and shot process. For those that have received their vaccines, please do not forget to submit the paperwork for the \$150 bonus!

Although Public Works has been “open for business” during the entire pandemic, you will be seeing more and more county functions returning to in-person in the coming month. As part of this reopening, teleworking (for those staff that can) will continue though on a less frequent scale. For Public Works staff, teleworking will be restricted to no more than 2 days a week. This will ensure that we have adequate staff coverage in the office to address in-person needs from both the general public and our peer departments. Masks and social distancing will still be required for all in-person interactions, but temperature screenings will be discontinued. The Board of Commission plan to return to in-person meetings on Wednesday, May 5th.

Human Resources continues to plan on implementing the Incremental Compensation Strategy (ICS) in July. If you recall, the ICS will spread employees across the salary range for each pay grade based on the number of years of Fulton County service. More information should be made available to staff in early June.

Finally, May brings the return of Public Works Week. The Public Education and Outreach staff has once again put together a great week that will be a hybrid of virtual and in-person events. The highlight will be the annual training session and equipment rodeo to be held at the Johns Creek Environmental Campus on Thursday, May 20th. The team has assembled an interesting team building exercise that you will not want to miss.

Again, thank you for the commitment to Public Works and the citizens of Fulton County over the past year. It has not been unnoticed by the Manager's Office and the elected officials.

Public Works By the Numbers January-March 2021		
Water Resources	22.37 MGD	Total Potable Water Distributed (average day)
	7.81%	Non-Revenue Water (annualized)
	262	Small Meters Replaced
	51.11 MGD	Total Wastewater Treated (average day)
	62.74 Acres	Sewer Easement Cleared
	10.54 MG	Reuse Water Provided (JCEC)
	15.1 MG	Reuse Water Provided (Little River)
	569	Water and Sewer Service Applications Processed
	YTD: 4	Sewer Overflows >10,000 gallons (major spill)
	YTD: 8	Sewer Overflows <10,000 gallons (minor spill)
Airport Services	1474	People Reached by PEO Staff
	50%	Airport Master Plan Development Progress
FID Transportation Operations	17,159	Aircraft Operations YTD
	34	Utility Permits Processed
	123	Potholes Repaired
	44 Tons	Litter Picked Up
Development Permits	26	Traffic Signals Maintained
	11	Building Permits Issued
	1	Land Disturbance Permit Issued
	1	Zoning petition filed in 1st quarter

An Earth Day to Remember

By: Shelley Lange

Even if you don't celebrate Earth Day, you know there is one. However, many people in the USA are more likely to know the exact date of National Doughnut Day every year (first Friday in June – it's on my calendar), than knowing the exact date of Earth Day. So let the Public Education and Outreach (PEO) team educate or remind you of some history that even I had forgotten:



- Rachel Carson's Silent Spring was published in 1962 and its publication is often viewed as the beginning of the modern environmentalist movement in America
- The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970 (it was actually a protest), Senator Gaylord Nelson "created" Earth Day as a way to force the environmental issue into the national agenda. Twenty million Americans demonstrated in different U.S. cities, and it sort of caught on - April 22, 2020 marked the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.
- In December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to wrestle complex environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Prior to this there were limited enforceable regulatory protocols to protect the environment. Viewed differently, before 1970, factories could discharge all the toxic smoke into the air they wanted, and could discharge any amount of toxic waste into a nearby stream, and those (and many other environmental degradations) were "legal".
- On October 18, 1972, the Clean Water Act was established after large reorganization and expansion efforts were made to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948. This created regulation guidelines for protecting surface waters from point-source discharges without permits and limits on quantities of discharges.

The celebration of Earth Day for the PEO team is technically a year-round effort, and we like to spend the entire month of April highlighting ways that Fulton County citizens can easily make a positive impact in their daily lives. From rain barrel workshops that reduce runoff and conserve water to making recycled craft activities that encourages repurposing everyday objects that would otherwise end up in a landfill, our team is always looking for engaging ways to empower citizens with the resources they need to get involved each Earth Day.

Even little changes make a difference, as seen by the Covid-19 sequestering of 2020. Our global air quality witnessed an unprecedented drop in emissions in 2020. Globally, a renewed appreciation of our parks and open spaces has reminded us how much the enjoyment of nature heals us, on all levels. We seem to have remembered how "quiet and still" can replenish the soul. For good or bad, animals are reclaiming "our human habitat" and we are reminded of the value of sharing the earth with them.

I certainly do not promote a pandemic in any manner, nor the misery and death that accompanies it. However, history has proven that we have short memories, and often a catastrophic event moves us to discover or renew our appreciation and respect of family and friends. Let's not forget the important things in life – Life lived well, with meaning and respect for all, shared with others.

Welcome New Employees!	
La Rina Seward	Records & Document Coordinator
Angelina Crutchfield	Records & Document Coordinator
Devian Powell	Maintenance Worker, Sr.
Brandon LaFleur	Engineering Tech, Sr.
Steve Harvey	Staff Engineer
Gary Williams	Maintenance Worker, Sr.
Vincent Cooper	Heavy Equipment Operator
Michael Pritchett	Maintenance Worker, Sr.
Robert Taylor	Receiving & Inventory Specialist
Donte Wilson	Maintenance Worker, Sr.

Promotions	
Orlando Echols	Heavy Equipment Operator
Marques Hurst	Heavy Equipment Operator
Christopher McKibben	Water System Tech
Robert Taylor	Receiving & Inventory Specialist
Congratulations Retirees!	
Benjamin Crosby	Randy Beck
Tony Moore	

Public Works Celebrates 2021 National Drinking Water Week

By: Amy Warnock



May 2nd through May 8th, 2021, Fulton County will join the American Water Works Association and utilities across the country in celebrating National Drinking Water Week. This year’s theme, “There When You Need It”, is a fitting one for a time when many people are beginning to recognize the critical importance of water professionals and the services they provide. Water and wastewater systems are the very definition of essential services, and our Department will be participating in events and activities during the week to highlight the importance of water infrastructure and water professionals.

On Wednesday, May 5th the Board of Commissioners will return to in-person meetings in Assembly Hall, and PEO team will host a display table outside the Hall to educate citizens about water services in Fulton County. On Thursday, May 6th Georgia Public Broadcasting will be presenting “Georgia’s Water”, a live virtual field trip event for students and teachers. This event will be hosted at the Johns Creek Environmental Campus, and Public Works Director David Clark will be one of the guest presenters on the broadcast. The PEO team will also work with Veolia in the month of May to stream a live virtual tour of the Tom Lowe Water Treatment Plant including Q&A with a drinking water operator.

In addition to our live and virtual events, we will also run a social media campaign throughout the week to help build public awareness of the work our Department continues to do each day to help keep our community’s most critical resources flowing.

Fulton County Executive Airport Landscaping Phase 1 Complete

By: Tim Beggerly

Fulton Executive Airport (FTY) has recently completed Phase 1 of the airport’s new landscaping project. This phase replaced the old landscaping which had passed its life expectancy and was in need of replacing. The new landscaping was installed along Aviation Circle, airport entrances, signs, car parking lot, along Fulton Industrial Blvd (FIB), Martin Luther King Drive, and South Airport Road. Additional landscaping was installed along the new North Terminal Area along Sandy Creek Road. The project was designed by a landscape architectural company currently under contract with the airport.

The update to landscaping is part of a bigger Airport Master Plan, which outlines plans to modernize the airport facility including airside and landside improvements. These efforts blend with the FIB Community Improvement District’s landscape updates made at the intersection of FIB and I-20. The goal is to beautify the area with new landscaping while other ongoing efforts will remove many of the blighted properties in the area.

Phase 2 of the project will landscape the entranceway to Sandy Creek Road which leads to the airport’s new North Terminal Area. Phase 2 will begin this summer and should take about two weeks to complete. Now that the landscaping has been installed, airport maintenance staff and a contracted landscaping service will maintain the plants in order to keep the airport looking nice.

Before



Under Construction Fall 2020



After



Recent Rains Cause Flooding Concerns for Fulton County Residents

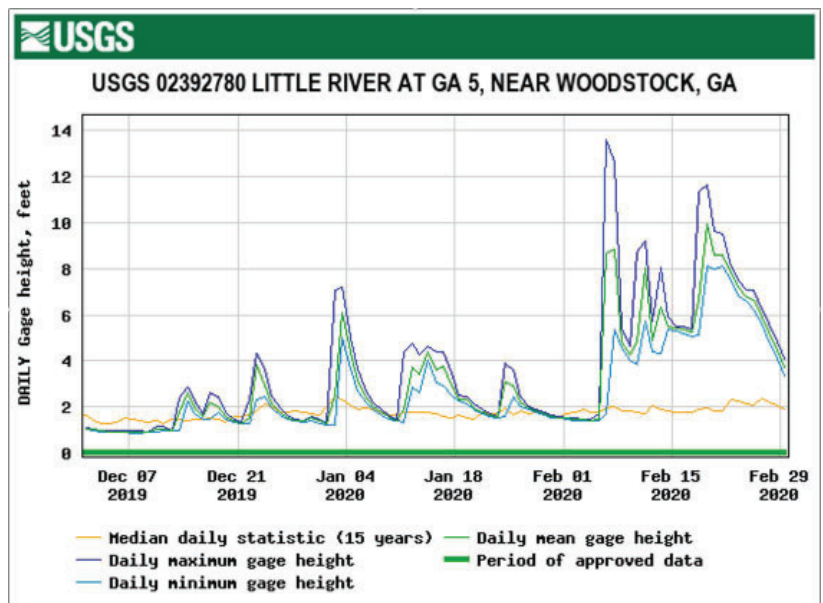
By: Anna Skipper

Fulton county residents recently voiced concerns about ongoing construction near the Little River Water Reclamation Facility and its possible impact on flooding in the area last year. The residents noticed that flooding was particularly bad last winter, specifically during the period roughly between December 2019 and February 2020.

In order to address these concerns, we turned to data collected by the National Weather Service (NWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and United States Geological Survey (USGS). The NWS has maintained a rain guage at the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta for 91 years. The 30 year period of measurement between 1981 and 2010 is used to calculate an average, or “normal”, set of weather conditions that we can use to make comparisons.

The “normal” amount of rainfall measured at the Atlanta rain gage from December to February is 12.77 inches; from December 1, 2019 to February 28, 2020 this same rain guage measured 23.74 inches of rain, nearly 11 inches more than the standard amount. According to NOAA, this is the second wettest record for the Atlanta region in 91 years of collected data, eclipsed only by an inch or so in Dec 2015-Feb 2016 record. You can check out this data for yourself here: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/202002/supplemental/page-2>

USGS maintains measuring equipment in waterways all across the US. One of their gage sites (USGS 02392780 Little River at GA 5, near Woodstock GA) is located on Little River, and has been active for 15 years. We can see from the daily gage height record, this tells us the height of the water surface in the river, that the reading was extremely high all throughout the month of February if we compare the mean measured gage height (green) to the median daily gage height over the 15 year recording period (orange). In fact, during the month of February the mean gage height for the month was 5.56 ft (compared to 2.4 ft normally), which is higher even than the month of September 2009 (4.96 ft). All this data (and more!) can be found here: https://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/inventory/?site_no=02392780&agency_cd=USGS



The residents were correct that the flooding was unusually bad during these months (December 2019 – February 2020), but given how extreme the weather and river response appears to have been, it seems unlikely that it was primarily due to Fulton County construction.

As far as what these records tell us about the Fulton County collection system, if we take a look back at the NOAA rain record comparisons, 3 of the 5 wettest records have occurred in the past 5 years (1. Dec 2015-Feb 2016, 2. Dec 2019-Feb 2020, 5. Dec 2018-Feb 2019). This indicates that increased rain during this period could become the norm in the future. Our inflow and infiltration (I&I) mitigation effort then become more vital to ensure we maintain capacity in our system under the more extreme weather conditions.

Take the 10-Minute Leak Challenge!



Fix a Leak Week 2021

By: Gwen Brinkley

As a WaterSense partner, Fulton County joined EPA in the annual Fix a Leak Week (FALW) campaign, March 15-21, 2021 to raise awareness and encourage residents to be leak detectives in their homes. Minor water leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year. In fact, the average household leaks more than 10,000 gallons of water per year!

During FALW, the Public Education and Outreach (PEO) group held virtual workshops and conference calls, asking our residents and employees to take a 10 minute WaterSense Challenge to find and chase down leaks in and around their home. Utility bills and water meters were checked. Faucets and pipes were

inspected for water leaks and dye tab toilet tests were performed. Joining us on the virtual workshops was Wadell Prothro, Plumbing Supervisor in the Department of Real Estate and Asset Management (DREAM). Our residents shared their experiences and had lots of questions for him. Wadell so graciously answered questions as well as gave recommendations for repairs.

We enjoy helping our residents become leak detectives, not just during FALW, but throughout the year. By finding and fixing running toilets, leaky faucets, and dripping showerheads, a family can save as much as 10 percent on its utility bills and save water for future generations.

If you would like to become a leak detective and check your home for leaks, visit our Water Conservation page to download a leak detection checklist: <https://fultoncountyga.gov/services/water-services/water-conservation>

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK
MAY 16-22, 2021

Stronger Together

Monday – May 17th

- PWW Social Media Promotion
- Azalea Drive/Riverside Pump Station Project Ribbon-Cutting @ 2 pm

Tuesday – May 18th

- Meet and Greet 10 AM – 1 PM
 - o Water Resources Operations Center
11575 Maxwell Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30009
 - o South Fulton Service Center
5600 Stonewall Tell Rd, College Park, GA 30349

Wednesday – May 19th

- Board of Commissioners Proclamation @ 10 am
- Display outside of Assembly Hall @ 10 AM

Thursday – May 20th

- Public Works Employee Training & Equipment Challenge @ 8 AM
 - o Johns Creek Environmental Campus
8100 Holcomb Bridge Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30022

Friday – May 21st

- Employee-led Service Project in South Fulton County
- Tom Lowe AFCWTP 30th Anniversary Celebration @ 11:30 AM

Fulton County Board of Commissioners General Number 404-612-8200	
Chairman-Robb Pitts (At-Large) (404-612-8200)	
Vice-Chair Natalie Hall (District 4) (404-612-8226)	
Commissioner Liz Hausmann (District 1) (404-612-8213)	
Commissioner Bob Ellis (District 2) (404-612-8216)	
Commissioner Lee Morris (District 3) (404-612-9800)	
Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington Jr. (District 5) (404-613-0202)	
Commissioner Kadijah Abdur-Rahman (District 6) (404-612-8222)	