



CONNECTIONS



Summer 2016

Public Works Welcomes New Director David Clark

I am excited to be writing to you as the new Director of Public Works for Fulton County. It is an honor and a pleasure to be a part of such a talented team of Transportation and Water Resources professionals. I want to start this column by acknowledging the years of service that the past interim director, Kun Suwanarpa, has provided to the residents of Fulton County and for her leadership and vision for Public Works. She has been a wonderful steward for Fulton County by enhancing the infrastructure and improving the overall maintenance of the water systems.



I come to Fulton County after 18 years of service in Athens-Clarke County, Georgia as its Director of Transportation & Public Works. I also have worked in Portland, Oregon for a consulting firm and for Barnstable County, Massachusetts in the early 1990s. I majored in Civil Engineering while at Virginia Tech and earned a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Purdue University. In my spare time, I enjoy long distance motorcycle riding – I have recently ridden from Jacksonville, Florida to San Diego, CA in a little under 50 hours.

I foresee that the goals of the Public Works Department will continue to focus on improving the infrastructure relied upon by the residents of Fulton County in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner. This requires the dedication, persistence, and a commitment to excellence by our employees. Even though I have only been here a short time, it has been my observation that all staff functions as a team and pride themselves on the service that they provide Fulton County. I am proud of the employees and the way they have raised to the challenges presented to them daily.

Fulton County is getting ready to begin an exciting time of infrastructure improvements including the construction of a replacement facility for the Little River water reclamation plant, an expansion of the existing Big Creek water reclamation plant, and an extension of a major water reuse line in Johns Creek. On the Transportation side, the upcoming T-SPLOST vote will allow for infrastructure improvements and provide a dedicated funding source for much needed maintenance of the existing transportation network. These projects will allow Fulton County to continue to meet the demands of the area, while ensuring that we continue to remain in compliance with the regulations of the State Environmental Protection Division and Georgia Department of Transportation. Be sure to look for more information on these exciting projects in future issues.



Public Works By the Numbers

0	SSOs > 10,000 gallons
3	SSOs < 10,000 gallons
1,203	MG wastewater treated in June
145	Water and Sewer permits issued
1192	MG water distributed in June
235	Tons of Illegal dumping collected
1,585	People reached through PEO

The Importance of Laboratory Operations

Water Resources operates and maintains water and wastewater laboratories that plays a vital role in our achieving the Department's strategic goal of making all people healthy. Our laboratory employees are some of the most unsung heroes of our Department as they typically work in an environment surrounded by analytical equipment, glassware, chemicals and just a lot of stuff that one would not say presents visual stimulation for an enjoyable work space. They endure odors and smells as they both collect, prepare and analyze water and wastewater samples. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you our laboratory staff and share with you some of the things they do unseen and quietly that allows us to perform at the highest levels.

The wastewater laboratories do the following daily analyses on influent and effluent samples from all five (5) wastewater plants: Ammonia, Phosphorus, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Suspended Solids (TSS), Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS), Fecal Coliform, *Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN), *Nitrate-Nitrite. *Monthly.

The drinking water and stream monitoring programs perform the following daily field and lab analyses: Chlorine, Turbidity, pH, Temperature, Total coliforms, E. coli, Heterotrophic plate count, Fluoride, Fecal coliforms, Dissolved oxygen.

The drinking water program also monitors the water distribution system for: Lead, Copper, Trihalomethanes (TTHMs), Haloacetic Acids (HAAs). The drinking water program also assists technical services inspectors/contractors for new water lines or connections or water main maintenance. The Health Department brings Well water samples to the drinking water lab for analyses.

Please visit our website to view a full profile of all laboratory personnel. As you will see the staff comprises a diverse team of professionals who possess some of the highest levels of expertise in our field. Please join us in thanking them for the outstanding work they do behind the scenes.



Laboratory manager Patrick Person. Visit the Water Resources website for full profiles of all lab staff.

Lead in Drinking Water

The primary way lead and copper can enter drinking water systems is through the corrosion of (1) the plumbing material inside your home or (2) the corrosion of your home's service line. If a service line is composed primarily of lead there is a potential for lead contamination, especially, if corrosive water flows through it or sits stagnate in it. Lead could then "leach" from the service line into the drinking water system. The North Fulton distribution system has virtually no lead service lines. The internal home plumbing of concern is copper piping with lead solder, which were banned in Georgia in 1985. We target older homes during testing.

Tier 1 & 2 are homes/buildings containing copper pipes with lead solder installed between 1/1/1983-6/30/1988; Tier 3 homes are those installed before 1983. To protect water consumers from lead and copper contamination that could occur from their home plumbing systems, we use corrosion control techniques that reduce the corrosivity of the water and the water's ability to carry lead and copper from the plumbing system to the faucet. With these measures in place, ones concern about lead in drinking water should be at a minimum.

We are required to submit samples collected at customer taps to the state once every three years. (We are allowed to collect every 3 years because of low levels of lead and copper historically found in the service area and an associated low level of risk for lead and copper contamination here.) We select 50 homes from the tier groups mentioned above to participate. These families are issued sample bottles and are asked to collect the 1st draw of water the next morning. We retrieve the samples which are then tested for lead and copper. The US EPA has established an "action level" of 15 ug/l for lead and 1300 ug/l copper. Our system is in compliance of these limits.

To lessen chances of ingesting trace amounts of lead from drinking water, we suggest:

- Consume only cold water directly from the faucet. Hot tap water can increase the potential for lead and other metals to leach into drinking water from the home plumbing system.
- If the water has been sitting in the pipes in your home for longer than 6 hours allow the water to run a few minutes before consuming. Turn on the cold water tap and wait for the temperature to change.
- Periodically clean out the aerators (screens on the faucet). These screens can trap sediment and debris over an extended period time. They easily twist off and can be cleaned or replaced.



CityWorks - AMS 2014

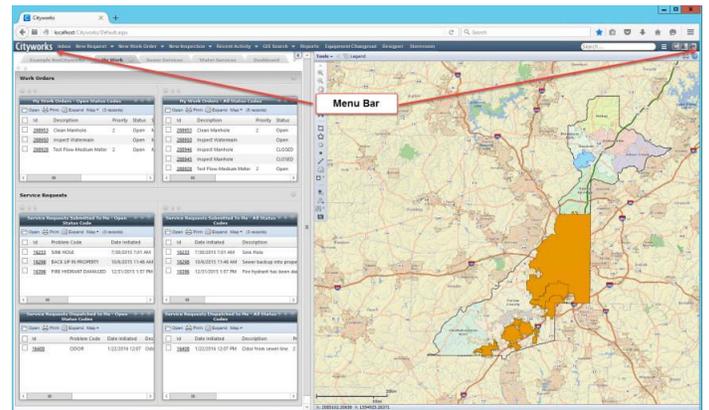
Fulton County Water Resources recently upgraded CityWorks desktop to the web based CityWorks – AMS (Asset Management System) 2014. At the beginning of the year Usha Pokharel, Brandon Faye, and Sarah Burford attended administrative training for the CityWorks upgrade by Power Engineers. Since then it has been the GIS team’s duty to transition Water Resources to our new asset management application. Implementing a new application can be a difficult task but with the help of Power Engineers everyone is learning quickly how to use AMS in their daily tasks with ease.

The new CityWorks has additional capabilities to what CityWorks desktop offered. The interface is new but the map component is very similar to the Water Resources Viewer. The work order panels have advanced functionality that makes AMS an upgraded platform from desktop. CityWorks –AMS also has the capability to go mobile which gives field users the ability to complete their work in the field.

The GIS group is coordinating training classes on a regular basis and on demand for the end users at different Fulton County Locations. The GIS group is also following up on issues that users may have questions about during training. CityWorks training covers basic topics that pertain to everyday work flow including new work order creation, different search criteria for finding work orders and related assets, searching work orders by features or by objects, different selection tools, saving searches and creating a customized inbox, attaching assets/pictures/videos to the work orders, storeroom issues, populating ELM (Equipment, Labor, and Material) on work orders, printing and emailing work orders, and many other functionalities. Employees can access CityWorks training manuals on the public works online portal. Please email or call the GIS group if you have any question and concerns regarding CityWorks.



Personnel attend CityWorks training at the Fulton County Government Center.



Interface of New CityWorks AMS

Sewer Line Cleaning

Cleaning of the sewer lines involves routine removal of accumulated material from the sewer system (includes removal of invasive roots). The schedule for sewer line cleaning is based on periodic inspection data (CCTV/MACP), sewer spills, data provided from the contractor, in-house knowledge as well based on vegetation, easement and terrain. The methods that are mostly used in the cleaning process in our system are Hydraulic System Flushing, chemical and mechanical.



Deer head found in the sewer line

Cleaning sewer lines is essential to maintaining a properly functioning system: increasing capacity, increasing in velocity, reduction of debris and grease, improve primary treatment at wastewater facility and reduction of influent loading on treatment.

Summer Watering

The summer is upon us and is in full swing. Hot days and days between rain events. Now more than ever it is important to you how and when to water your landscape correctly and at the allowed time.

The Georgia Water Stewardship Act went into effect statewide on June 2, 2010. It allows daily outdoor watering for purposes of planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants only between the hours of 4 p.m. and 10 a.m. by anyone whose water is supplied by a water system permitted by the Environmental Protection Division.

If you are interested in information on WaterWise Landscaping or Irrigation Tips please contact Jennifer.McLaurin@fultoncountyga.gov

For more information and guidance on the current water schedule please visit

http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/images/stories/WR/WC/Water_Sched_6-10.pdf

Water and Swimming Safety

Can you swim? Can you swim well? Can you swim well when you are tired, or have been in the sun all day? Can your whole family swim? These questions swirl around this time of year as more and more people use Georgia's recreational lakes and visit the beach. Inevitably, some people that are in and around the water either do not ask those questions or do not answer them correctly. Georgia has had more than five drownings in Lakes Allatoona and Lanier in the last two months!

Should you be scared of the water? NO! The water is fun and refreshing on a hot summer day. You must, however, respect the water and understand the steps you need to take to protect yourself and your family. Always have a plan when you and your family will be visiting the neighborhood pool, lake or the ocean. Plan for how long you will be at the water, including sunscreen, food, hygiene needs, and anything particular that you and your family will enjoy or need throughout your visit.

1. Make a list of all those who will be with you. Arrange them in order from the weakest to the strongest swimmers.
2. Make sure those who cannot swim have an appropriately sized, fit and serviceable personal floatation devices (PFD), and make sure they wear it whenever they are anywhere near the water.
3. If you will have to focus your attention on something other than observing and counting your family or group members, designate the next strongest swimmer to watch and count people to make certain that all your swimmers are observed at ALL times and are safe. You must have an observer at all times who is specifically watching your group, not just generically watching the pool!
4. Do not forget your pets around the water! They need help, too, and pet life preservers are easily found on line or at your local pet supply store.
5. It is much easier to see people swimming in a pool than it is in a cloudy lake, and that island that looks so inviting is a LOT farther away than you think. Do not swim past your ability!
6. Swim in designated areas at the lake to avoid being in the path of a speeding boat!
7. Rivers can have treacherous currents and as such, are NOT great swimming locations.
8. In the ocean, the hazards are magnified by the power of the waves and tides.
DO NOT swim if there are warning flags on the beach.
9. Rip tides are one of the hazards you and your family could encounter at the beach. Rip tides describe a current that flows from the beach out to sea. Remain calm. DO NOT try and swim straight back to the beach if you encounter a rip current. Instead, swim PARALLEL to the beach, the same way you would walk up or down the beach looking for shells. You will soon find yourself out of the current and only then turn and swim to the beach.
10. If you drink alcohol, do not swim after consuming.

The water is an alluring summer recreational opportunity that all of us can enjoy. What? You do not know how to swim? Contact Fulton County Parks and Recreation at Welcome All Park at 404.612.4058 to line up your swimming lessons! Have a great and safe water season this summer!



Summer fun and safety go hand-in-hand!

Upcoming Events

July
Smart Irrigation Month

August 7
Water Day
Chattahoochee Nature Center

October 16-22
Clean Water Week

August 2
National Night Out

September 18-24
Pollution Prevention Week

November 15
America Recycles Day

2016 National Public Works Week



Volunteers spruce up the flower beds at the Palmetto Senior Center

Every May National Public Works Week honors the smart, dedicated and hard-working employees in Public Works Departments across the nation. Fulton County Public Works celebrated this year with two community service projects and an exhibit fair at the Government Center.

On Wednesday, May 18, our Public Works Department had

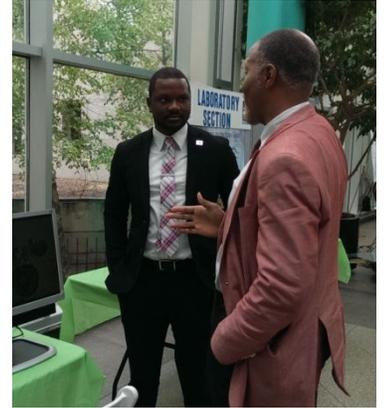
expansive exhibits to teach all Fulton County employees and Government Center visitors about what we do 365 days of the year. Over nine divisions were represented on the Peachtree Level of the Government Center: Transportation, GIS, Commercial Pre-Treatment, Laboratory, Wastewater, Public Education and Outreach, and contract operators, American Water and Veolia Water. Each

group brought elaborate show-and-tell displays that explained the intricate, behind-the-scenes workings of a division that the public rarely sees.

Public Education and Outreach (PEO) staff, supported by volunteers from many of the other divisions, conducted community service projects at the Palmetto Neighborhood Community Center and the New Beginnings Senior Center in Fairburn. The project consisted of weeding, flower plantings, and preparing raised beds for vegetable gardens.

There is something for everyone during our National Public Works Week celebration. You can get honored at the Commissioner's meeting with the annual proclamation or perhaps you will consider volunteering for a Service Project that further helps our citizens in some small but meaningful way.

Fulton County appreciates all its employees, but here in Public Works we get our own week to (deservedly) pat ourselves on the back.



Isaaq Drumgoole speaks with a constituent about laboratory operations

T-Splost

A recent study by the Atlanta Regional Commission says metro Atlanta is expected to grow by 2.5 million people by 2040. That's equivalent to the population of metro Charlotte, North Carolina. This population surge will undoubtedly impact the area's overburdened transportation system. Today, Fulton County and its 14 cities are working together to initiate a referendum that would allow voters to consider a Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST) for transportation construction and improvements.



Voters outside the city of Atlanta would consider a 0.75¢ sales tax that would authorize transportation projects like roads, bridges, sidewalks, traffic signals, and more. Each Fulton County city, as well as unincorporated Fulton, will have the chance to select projects that are important to that community. Voters inside the city of Atlanta will have the chance to consider a 1.0 cent sales tax split equally between MARTA and other T-SPLOST projects.

Fulton County Transportation Division staff conducted a series of public meetings in April and May 2016 to present the project list for unincorporated Fulton County and solicit feedback from the public. Fulton County's final project list can be viewed on the T-SPLOST at <http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/tsplost/index.php>

Celebrating the Wonder of Water

Originally started in 2004, the Wonder of Water festival (WOW) is made possible by an annual partnership between local water utilities in Metro Atlanta, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, and the National Park Service. The festivities are held each year during Drinking Water Week in May at the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area in the north and at Shamrock Lake Recreational Area in the south.

The goal of the festivals is to provide quality water education opportunities to as many students as possible at a location that reminds the kids about the direct connection between people and the quality and quantity of water in our rivers, lakes, and streams. The festival committee members designed this event for 4th grade students to learn about the importance of protecting and conserving our water resources and about the festival's theme, the Wonder of Water.

Each year the WOW festival reaches nearly 1,000 4th graders from multiple school districts. The schedule for the festival packs a lot of activities into a short period of time. An educational and entertaining presentation to the entire group of kids kicks-off the program. This allows for any late comers to arrive and get settled before the activity rotations begin. After a few welcoming remarks the teachers lead their classes to their first activity, including truck and equipment demonstrations, building an edible watershed, and learning about wildlife habitats.



Water Resources personnel share information about careers in the water industry with the students.

PROMOTIONS

Laimant Philpot - General Supervisor Roads
Timothy Mullen - Professional Engineer, Sr.
Corlette Banks - Env. Project Manager
Rodney Walker - Maintenance Worker Sr.
Darro Patterson - Heavy Equipment Operator
Alan Altman - Development Site Inspector
Shawnte Campbell - Heavy Equipment Operator
Abul Howlader - Engineering Administrator

NEW EMPLOYEES

<i>Carlos Perez</i>	<i>Dwayne Comer</i>
<i>Cynthia Dang</i>	<i>Michael Jones</i>
<i>Deon Franklin</i>	<i>Willie Doster</i>
<i>Curtis Milliner</i>	<i>Jamaal McCoy</i>
<i>Leslie Matthews</i>	<i>Leon Dunn</i>
<i>Bryon Heath</i>	

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

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