



CONNECTIONS

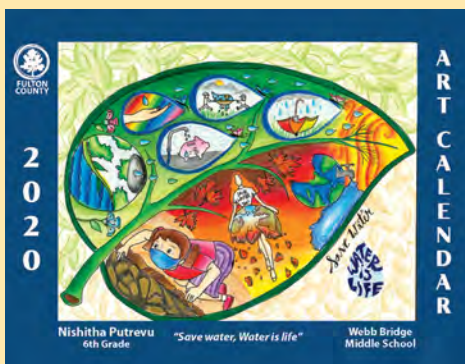
Fulton County Public Works' Quarterly Newsletter



2020 Art Calendar Awards

By: Hannah Penn

Students from across Fulton County wowed the Public Works Department again with their submissions to the 2020 Art Calendar competition. Winners ranged in grade level from Kindergarten to 10th Grade and were selected from a total of 227 entries.



Our 2020 cover winner was Nishitha Putrevu who is a 6th Grade student at Webb Bridge Middle School. The title of her artwork featured here is "Save Water, Water is Life".

Submission requests for this competition are distributed in mid-August to students grades K-12 in Fulton County and the deadline for submissions comes in late-September. The competition encourages students to participate in a creative process that will depict the importance of water to life on planet Earth.

For the selection of our winners, we collaborate with the Fulton County Department of Arts and Culture to assist our staff with judging the finalists who capture the elements of water conservation and water quality seen in our calendars each year.

IN THIS ISSUE

2020 Art Calendar Awards

Pg. 1

Director's Corner

Pg. 2

Tech Services

Service Laterals

Pg. 3

Airport Update

Pg. 4

FC CMOM Platinum Award

Pg. 5

Public Education and Outreach

Arbor Day

Pg. 6

Water Reclamation

Swamp Buggy & Manhole Filler

Pg. 6

Upcoming Events

Valentine's Day Pop-Up

2/14 11AM-1PM @ 2 Locations

FC Government Center

141 Pryor Street SW Atlanta, GA 30303

FC Customer Service Center

11575 Maxwell Rd Alpharetta, GA 30009

FC Holiday-President's Day

Monday, February 18, 2019

Adopt-a-Stream Chemical Workshop

Autrey Mill Nature Preserve

9770 Autrey mill Rd

Johns Creek, GA 30022

February 22, 2020 10:00 AM

Fix a Leak Week

March 16-20, 2020

Director's Corner

By: David Clark



2020 will continue to bring changes to our compensation as Human Resources, with the support of the Board of Commissioners and Manager's Office, continues to address many of the pay-related concerns employees have raised over the years.

Once again, the Board of Commissioners fully funded the Pay-for-Performance program as part of the 2020 operating budget. As many of you know, the Pay for Performance program has two main elements:

- 1) an overall customer service goal of 80% of all Fulton County residents being satisfied or extremely satisfied with the level of service provided, and
- 2) five key performance measures tied directly to Public Works providing services to the citizens. Overall, Fulton County, as a whole, achieved an 84.6% satisfaction rating for Customer Service in 2019. This rate was an increase from 2018 and the first element was achieved.

It is with great pride that I can announce that Public Works have met all of our 2019 key performance measures. Therefore, Public Works staff, who has been employed with Fulton County since July 24, 2019, should expect to receive a bonus a little more than 3% of your base salary for our hard work in 2019. All bonus checks will be presented to staff on February 21st. It will be a separate check issued that will be subject to normal taxation rates and retirement program contributions.

However, a more important change to our compensation program will occur in July with the implementation of the Incremental Compensation Strategy. As many of you know, for each pay grade there is a minimum and maximum salary. It was always the intention of the 2015 Archer classification study to spread employees across the pay grade. However, when the Archer study was implemented most employees were assigned a salary near the low end of the pay grade. Currently, 85% of all Fulton County employees are compensated at a salary found in the lowest 25% salary range of the pay grade. Human Resources has been working on correcting this and to better acknowledge those employees who have served Fulton County for years.

Later in February, all employees will receive information from Human Resources identifying what salary they should be receiving in their pay grade based on their years of service. For those employees that will receive salary increases, it will occur over a two year period. The first salary adjustment will occur on July 3, 2020 and the second adjustment in 2021. After the second adjustment, your salary should correspond to the number of years of service you have given Fulton County. It is the intent of Human Resources to continue progressing employees towards the maximum salary every three years.

Thank you all for your commitment to Customer Service and efficient operations of Public Works in 2019. I know that it is all of our intentions to continue raising the delivery of services provided to the resident of Fulton County in 2020.

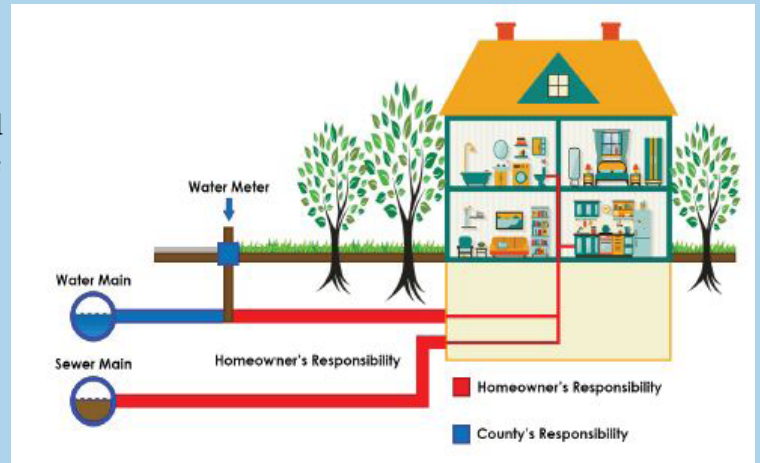
Public Works By the Numbers October -December 2019		
WATER RESOURCES	2390.45 MG	Total Potable Water Distributed
	8.27 %	Non-revenue water (annualized)
	103	Small Meters Replaced
	3733.65 MG	Total Wastewater Treated
	196.04 acres	Sewer Easement Cleared
	430	Water and Sewer Permits Processed
	28.68 MG	Reuse Water Provided (JCEC)
	16.46 MG	Reuse Water Provided (Little River)
	1 YTD:27	Sewer Overflow >10,000 gallons (major spill)
	5 YTD:36	Sewer Overflow <10,000 gallons (minor spill)
5,147	People Reached by PEO Staff	

Technical Services: The Need to Protect Your House from Sewer Backups

By: Abdul Akbar

Fulton County Department of Public Works receives weekly calls about residential sanitary sewer backups. On average, these repairs cost the homeowners around \$2800. Depending on the severity of the problem these costs can increase to repair the sewer laterals.

Once a sewer connection is made, the property owner accepts responsibility for the maintenance and operation of their service laterals, the pipe connecting their property to Fulton County’s sanitary sewer line. In the same way a homeowner would replace the driveway if it was damaged, they are also responsible for replacing or repairing a damaged service lateral.



The risk will be reduced if customers perform the necessary precautions to protect and prevent blockages and damages to the service lateral. The Insurance Information Institute recommends homeowners observe to the following steps to reduce backups in your sewer lateral:

1. Never pour grease down the drain. When fat, oil, or grease is poured down a drain it cools and becomes solid, and can block the flow of any liquid in the sewer lateral.
2. Never put products other than toilet paper into your sewer. Paper towels, diapers, hygienic “flushable” wipes and feminine products can completely block a sewer line.
3. Homeowners should periodically cut tree roots and avoid planting trees and shrubs near sanitary sewer laterals. If needed, a plumber can help identify the location of the service lateral. Roots are attracted to the moisture and temperature of the service lateral. Based on the weekly calls we receive, the greatest number of sewer lateral failures are the result of root intrusions.
4. For older homes, have a plumber inspect the condition of your sewer lateral. If your lateral is in questionable condition, you should replace the lateral with plastic pipe. This will reduce the chance of tree roots entering you sewer line and creating any blockage.
5. Consider installing a backwater prevention valve. A properly installed and maintained backwater valve will prevent sewage from backing up into your home if there is a problem with your sewer lateral.

These tips can help homeowners avoid costly repairs to their sewer service in the future. For additional information, regarding service laterals and repair responsibilities, contact Abdul Akbar at (404) 612-7518.

Welcome New Employees!

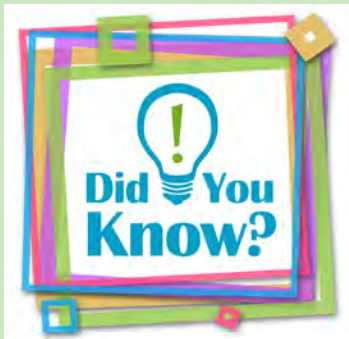
Wayne Allick
Professional Engineer

Ebony Jones
Environmental Water Tech

Charles Lee
Environmental Water Tech

Grady Cochran
Supt. Water & Sewer I (returned)

Falade Fonville
Environmental Water Tech



The average U.S. household loses nearly 10,000 gallons of water every year to leaks, and 10% of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more each day! Many of these leaks can be easily fixed by a homeowner without many tools or expensive replacement parts. Finding and fixing some common household leaks can save money and water bills and potentially prevent water damage to your home.

To encourage residents to find and fix household leaks, Fulton County will join the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense program in celebrating Fix a Leak Week, March 16th through the 22nd, 2020. During the entire month of March, customers can pick up leak detection checklists and dye tablets in the Public Works lobby on the 6th floor of the Fulton County Government Center. You can also download a checklist at <https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/services/water-services/water-conservation>

A few simple things you can do to check for leaks are:

- Turn off all water fixtures, read your water meter, then wait two hours (without turning water on) and read it again. If the number has changed, you probably have a leak.
- Check for toilet leaks by dropping dye tablets or food coloring in the water of your toilet tank. If the dye shows up in your bowl after 10 minutes without flushing, you’ve got a leak.
- Look for water dripping or running around showerheads, faucet gaskets, and pipe fittings.
- Visit epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week for videos and other resources.

For more information about water conservation or Fix a Leak Week events, contact Amy Warnock at (404) 612-8006 or amy.warnock@fultoncountyga.gov.

Rebranding the Airport

By: Tim Beggerly

As a part of the recently adopted Visioning Plan for the Fulton County Airport – Charlie Brown Field, a rebranding of the airport was also approved.

The rebranding will complement the Visioning Plan, recognize the airport’s corporate status, and also assist with changing the perception of the Fulton Industrial District. The BOC

approved the new name of the airport, Fulton County Executive Airport – Charlie Brown Field, which doesn’t seem like a big change, but we are now known as the only “Executive” airport both in Atlanta and the State of Georgia.



A logo was also approved by the FC Management Team and will be featured on all new print material and vehicles for the airport. The logo uses the characteristics and colors of the recently updated FC logo. We are excited to have our own brand and personality here at FTY (the flight signature for Fulton County Executive Airport) and look forward to sharing it with the aviation community.

Do Your Part: Be Septic Smart

By: Kelli Edwards



For many, managing a septic system can appear to be a daunting task. In an effort to support Fulton County residents, the Public Education and Outreach team of Public Works is conducting a series of Septic System Maintenance Workshops throughout the county. Since the start of 2020, the PEO team has conducted one workshop for realtors and another for homeowners.

In partnership with our sister cities and the Board of Health, the workshops are designed to provide our residents with the tips and necessary tools to properly AND safely manage their onsite wastewater system. Additional information was provided to participants about the process of transitioning from septic to the sewer system with Fulton County Public Works.

According to our post-workshop survey, one resident stated “ [Our facilitators] did an excellent job explaining how septic tanks are designed, maintained, discontinued, and answered all other related questions. I was very impressed with the content, and both facilitators. I will definitely attend future workshops.]”

Our next septic system maintenance workshop will take place on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM at the Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Office off Roswell Road. For more information about our Septic System Program offerings, please contact Environmental Quality and Education Manager, Kelli L. Edwards at 404-612-8745.

Fulton County Receives GAWP Platinum Award for CMOM Program

By: Charles Nezianya



Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) program won the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Platinum Award for Wastewater Collection System Excellence for 2019.

This prestigious award is an audit of the entire wastewater collection system to determine whether the Department of Public Works has adequate programs in place to prevent and/

or address sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). GAWP auditors evaluated the following areas: planned preventative maintenance, reactive or emergency maintenance, SSOs notification and mitigation plan, number of SSOs, budget, operators and crew members training and certifications, safety training, communication, industrial and commercial pretreatment programs, public education and outreach, facilities and equipment maintenance, pump stations and force main operations, and capacity system analysis program. Congratulations to Public Works for a job well done!

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

General Number 404-612-8200

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(At-Large)

Vice-Chair Marvin S. Arrington Jr.
(District 5)

Commissioner Liz Housmann
(District 1)

Commissioner Bob Ellis
(District 2)

Commissioner Lee Morris
(District 3)

Commissioner Natalie Hall
(District 4)

Commissioner Joe Carn
(District 6)

Water Reclamation: Swamp Buggy Purchase Approved by FC Board of Commissioners



In the fall of 2019, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners approved the Department of Public Works' request to purchase a Caterpillar 308 Amphibious Excavator, also known as the Swamp Buggy. The purchase of the equipment for \$331,682.00 was approved for the water reclamation division to better access infrastructure in the wastewater collection system along low lying swamp filled areas. More details and outlook on system repairs with the swamp buggy are to come, so stay tuned!

Water Reclamation: Manhole Sealant Project Makes Newspaper Case Study Headlines

After relining many of its old and deteriorating manholes in primarily low lying areas along creek banks and rivers, Fulton County needed a solution to fill a 2 to 3-inch gap between the new liners and the manholes. In the past, concrete and grout was used to fill the annular space or dig up and replace the old manhole, a multi-day process. Precision Fill from Prime Resins was chosen to fill this space due to its high expansion rate, its hydro-insensitivity and its slower set time allows for a more consistent pour to prevent void pockets from forming. The project included several manholes, using 8-12 gallons of material each. Recommended uses for Precision Fill include undersealing and stabilizing concrete slabs, compaction grouting of soils, stabilizing soils and filling voids behind pipes, walls, manholes and other structures. Lining and filling the annular space cost roughly a third less than tear-out and replacement. During the last rain event, one of our projects along Azalea Drive did not experience any sewer spills due to the new inserts and resins.



Public Education and Outreach (PEO): Arbor Day 2020

Arbor Day is a holiday that celebrates nature. Its purpose is to encourage people to plant trees, and many communities take the opportunity to organize tree-plantings or cleanups. Arbor Day sprouted from zealous tree lover Julius Sterling Morton, who had a passion for planting all kinds of trees. The first Arbor Day occurred on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. National Arbor Day is celebrated on the last Friday in April, although some states observe it on dates that coincide with the regional planting zones.

The best time to plant trees in Georgia is between November and mid-March, because it gives trees a chance to become established before the hot, dry period of summer. This is why Georgia Arbor Day is celebrated annually on the third Friday in February.

PEO celebrates Arbor Day with a week of tree related events. This year we have scheduled two days of programs with Chattahoochee Hills Charter School. Programs will demonstrate to students how clean water, light and the correct nutrients aid tree sustainability.

PEO hopes that you and your family take a few minutes to celebrate Arbor Day with just a walk to remind yourself of the peaceful, quiet importance of trees in our daily lives. If you are interested in more ways to celebrate Arbor Day, download resources from <https://www.arborday.org/arborday/graphics/celebrate-arbor-day-guidebook-small.pdf> Finally, visit PEO on the 6th floor of the Fulton County Government building to grab free, tree-related material as well as some coloring pages for kids. Enjoy Arbor Day and say thanks to our beautiful trees by taking a long clean breath of healthy air!

