

# CONNECTIONS

FALL 2022



Laboratories Recognized  
for Outstanding Quality  
Assurance  
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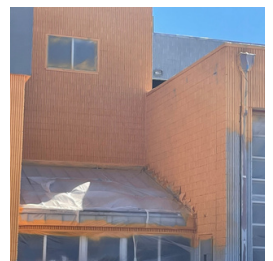
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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## DAVID E. CLARK, P.E.



Welcome to fall and the start of the Holiday season. I certainly hope that you all take some much needed time off over the next few weeks to spend time with your family and loved ones.

As 2022 starts to wind down, I want to thank everyone in Public Works for another fantastic year of accomplishments. Although “normal” is slowly returning to our days, most of our Public Works staff have not missed a beat over the past three years. We have been consistently providing drinking water, treating wastewater, operating the Fulton County Executive Airport, and ensuring the roadways in unincorporated Fulton County are well maintained. Public Works continues to set the bar high for ourselves.

Whether it is turning our attention to some long neglected inflow and infiltration improvements, constructing the largest capital project in Fulton County’s history, renovating water storage tanks, or preparing the Airport’s Master Plan that will set the tone for the next twenty years, everyone in Public Works actively ensures that these and every other project is a success.

Recently we celebrated another Clean Water Week, as was mentioned during the Proclamation Ceremony with the Board of Commissioners, I am very grateful that I work with a large number of staff that treat every day as Clean Water Week. While it is nice to be recognized for what we do, truth be told the number of activities that all of Public Works complete on a daily basis improves the daily lives of everyone in Fulton County – whether they recognize it or not. So before we all get too busy with the holidays, thank you all for making Public Works such a great department and for always being willing to do whatever is needed to be done for the County and its residents.



*Public Works employees receive a proclamation from the Board of Commissioners in honor of Clean Water Week*

# Laboratories Win Gold

By: Jenna Cook



The purpose of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Laboratory QA/QC Awards is to encourage the professional advancement of laboratories within Georgia.

The process provides an avenue for peers to exchange ideas, circulate technical expertise, and offer productive feedback. In so doing, the committee ultimately recognizes those laboratories who are demonstrating outstanding quality assurance programs. Not only did all three of the laboratories in Fulton County win Gold, two achieved a perfect score!

Winning these awards would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of every laboratory team member. All laboratory personnel had a part in upholding the quality of our data and exemplifying the standards we strive to maintain within the laboratories. This was aided by the collaboration between the QA/QC Officer, Jenna Cook, and the Water Quality Supervisors, Meseret Hundie, William Bradley and Marvin Clark. In order for the data integrity to remain a priority, we counted on our trusted analytical staff: Cynthia Dang, Charles Lee, Carlos Perez, Brian Nguyen, Denita Johnson, Corey Parham and Ebony Jones. Last but certainly not least, the managerial support of Patrick Person that drives principles was paramount.

## WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Jacqueline Taylor	Departmental Accountant
Sabrina Attimy	Environmental Education Coordinator
Timothy Beeman	Receiving & Inventory Specialist

## PROMOTIONS

Denetra Truitt	Financial Systems Supervisor
Stetson Ray	Heavy Equipment Operator
Ebony Jones	Environmental Education Coordinator
Andrenette Whitlow	Material Management Manager

## CONGRATULATIONS RETIREES

Timothy Beggerly	Anthony Kemakolam
Terry Johnson	

# PUBLIC WORKS BY THE NUMBERS

JULY - DECEMBER 2022

### WATER RESOURCES

31.14 MGD	TOTAL POTABLE WATER DISTRIBUTED (AVERAGE DAY)
9.3 %	NON-REVENUE WATER (ANNUALIZED)
28	SMALL METERS REPLACED
41.77 MGD	TOTAL WASTEWATER TREATED (AVERAGE DAY)
1.55 ACRES	SEWER EASEMENT CLEARED
48.32 MG	REUSE WATER PROVIDED (JCEC)
14.7 MG	REUSE WATER PROVIDED (LITTLE RIVER)
509	WATER AND SEWER SERVICE APPLICATIONS PROCESSED
0 YTD: 2	SEWER OVERFLOWS >10,000 GALLONS (MAJOR SPILL)
7 YTD: 30	SEWER OVERFLOWS <10,000 GALLONS (MINOR SPILL)
1950	PEOPLE REACHED BY PEO STAFF

### AIRPORT SERVICES

90,000	PROJECTED TOTAL AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS FOR 2022
20%	INCREASE FROM 2021

### FID TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS

162	FACILITY SIGNS FABRICATED
9 TONS	LITTER PICKED UP

### DEVELOPMENT PERMITS

25	UTILITY PLANS APPROVED
107	UTILITY PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION
10	UTILITY PROJECTS COMPLETED/ACCEPTED

By: Kelli L. Edwards

Each September, the Department of Public Works celebrates Septic Smart Week. In celebration of this year's Septic Smart Week, the Public Education and Outreach team hosted our annual Fall Septic System Education workshop in partnership with the Fulton County Board of Health. The evening workshop took place via Zoom and is the second virtual septic system workshop this year. Residents from the cities of Milton, Roswell, Alpharetta, Atlanta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, Milton, Roswell, and Sandy Springs were all in attendance. This year, many of our workshop participants were either homeowners who had either recently purchased a home on septic or had general questions about how to properly maintain their system to prevent future issues. One participant stated the workshop was "very informative" while another found it helpful to understand how common over the counter additives can impair septic system function. Fulton County Board of Health Senior Environmental Educator, Brandon Leftwich was present again to deliver insightful knowledge to Fulton County citizens. For more information about this and future septic system education workshops, please contact Kelli L. Edwards at [Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov).



**FULTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS**  
**FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

**VIRTUAL SEPTIC SYSTEM EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022**  
**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Are you a resident of Fulton County with a septic system? Did you know that proper maintenance can extend the life of your system, while protecting our water resources? Join us for this free virtual workshop about septic systems hosted in partnership with the Fulton County Board of Health.

**LEARN HELPFUL TIPS FOR BASIC SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

**EXPLORE THE PARTS OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM**

**DISCOVER WHEN TO CALL A SEPTIC SYSTEM PROFESSIONAL**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP, PLEASE CONTACT KELLI L. EDWARDS BY EMAIL:**  
[Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov)

**WORKSHOP WILL TAKE PLACE VIA ZOOM. PLEASE REGISTER TO ATTEND BY COMPLETING THIS SHORT FORM:**  
<https://forms.gle/qee1TU2wq2EZJPE6>



## Keeping Our Communities Safe, One Cleanup at a Time

By: Kelli L. Edwards

While the biggest water quality issue in the state of Georgia is nonpoint source pollution, another pressing issue is that of illegal dumping of trash and litter. In most cases, trash and litter are illegally discarded off roadways and bridges. Unfortunately, this can leave harmful lasting effects on our water sources and the organisms that call Georgia home. This year, in celebration of Pollution Prevention Week, the Public Education and Outreach team hosted our Fall Stream Cleanup. A total of 15 residential volunteers attended the cleanup to tackle one of the most notorious illegal dumping sites in our County, Kimberly Creek in the city of South Fulton. Bicycles, tires, trash bags, even toilets were removed from the creek and supporting streambank.

The cleanup was registered with Rivers Alive, Georgia's largest stream cleanup initiative associated with the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream program. A special token of appreciation is extended to the men of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Incorporated, for bringing their young men's mentoring group to participate. All participants left the cleanup with a greater appreciation for our source waterways. Events like these are essential for fostering stewardship among our community members. To organize a stream cleanup in your community, please contact Kelli L. Edwards at [Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov).



By: Abdul Akbar

Imagine riding down the road on the way to work when you see your neighbor in the middle of the street with a sofa, a big screen television and a grill cooking food. You get out of the car to tell them that they need to move their belongings so you and other drivers can use the street in a normal way. Every week utility companies and local and state governments are faced with this situation as property owners regularly put structures within easements that interfere with our ability to maintain a utility system, either because they are unaware of the easement or because they don't understand the importance of utility easements.

A utility easement is a section of property that has been set-aside to give a government or utility companies the right to construct and maintain facilities within the easement area. Water lines are usually within the right of way of a street or road. Sanitary sewer lines may be within the right of way of a road, but many times sanitary sewer lines can cross property boundaries or run parallel to a river or stream. While water lines are pressurized lines that have water that is pumped, sanitary sewer lines must obey the laws of gravity and follow the slope of the land from the source of the sewage to the wastewater treatment plant for processing and clean up.

Before homes are built, utility "highways" are installed to bring critical services to the home. Apart from some electric and telephone lines, utility highways are located underground where the average person will not see them. These utility highways can carry water, electric, gas, internet and sanitary sewer lines and more. It is important that these utility highways are clear from obstructions so utility companies can have room to maintain and repair them. Not only must the space directly above the lines remain clear, but also a strip of land on either side to allow room for repairs and maintenance. In addition to making maintenance and repairs difficult, these structures can also damage the sanitary sewer line to a point that the sewer line can fail. When a sewer line fails, it can not only contaminate the soil of the lot, but the sewage can pollute nearby lakes and streams.

So how can a property owner avoid encroaching into a utility easement in Fulton County? The first thing a property or homeowner should do is to obtain a copy of the plat of their lot. At closing, a buyer should always request a copy of the land plat of their property. If you are doing an inspection of the house you are buying, it is equally important that the buyer knows the limits and restrictions of the land they are buying as well.

The Fulton County Clerk of Superior and Magistrate Courts Real Estate Division is responsible for recording and indexing all Fulton County real estate deeds, lien filings, plats, surveys, condominium floor plans, military discharges, partnerships, trade names and Uniform Commercial Code filings (UCC). This plat should show the location of any easements that may exist on your property. If a plat is not available at the Superior Court, you may need to hire a licensed land surveyor registered in the state of Georgia to determine the boundaries and restrictions on your lot.

It is the property owner's responsibility to know what their property boundaries are and what easements may exist on the property. Like the road in front of your house, a utility easement is there to provide a network of services designed to help homes and business have safety and comfort in the 21st century. It is important for homeowners to do their part in protecting this critical infrastructure for their own benefit and the benefit of their neighbors and communities.



# Public Works Happenings



In late July, Fulton County Chairman Robb Pitts and County Manager Dick Anderson joined the Public Works Department to collect wastewater samples at the Camp Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Public Works Water Quality Laboratory Manager, Patrick Person, was on hand to collect the sample. Public Works officials are working with Emory University to test wastewater for signs of the COVID-19 and monkeypox viruses in the untreated wastewater flow. Through regular testing, the County and Emory University can see whether the levels are increasing or decreasing within the area served by the treatment plant. This can be an early warning sign of increasing cases within a community.

On August 24th, Fulton County Commissioners hosted a congressional delegation to visit the Fulton County Executive Airport at Charlie Brown Field. The group toured the Fulton Industrial Boulevard corridor and previewed the Airport Executive Master Plan. The Renew the District initiative focuses on commercial revitalization, modern public services, and modernization of the Executive Airport.



On September 13th, Public Works and County officials broke ground on the Atlanta Newnan Road and Little Bear Creek Pump Stations and Force Main Project. A collaboration with the Reeves Young and GMC design-build team, the project will consist of 2 new pump stations and approximately 46,000 linear feet of force main. The \$22,578,835 investment in sewer infrastructure will ensure continued sewer capacity to serve a growing residential and business community in South Fulton.

In September, the Chattahoochee Nature Center invited Denise Fraser, from Commissioner Hausmann's Office, and David Clark to tour a portion of the Chattahoochee River. The group launched from the new boardwalk trail along Azalea Drive and headed about 1 mile downstream towards Morgan Falls. Along the way they saw a bald eagle, a doe with fawns, and tons of ducks, and encountered several others out enjoying the river. Getting out on the River allowed the group to see how valuable of a resource it is not only to Fulton County but the Atlanta region.



Several Public Works staff were recognized this year for their outstanding service - congratulations to FOCUS Award winners Patrick Person, William Wilson, and John Cochran and to Customer Service Legends Wyvern Budram, Angela Warrior, and Willie Franklin, as well as the north and south on-call staff who were recognized during Customer Service Week!



## Fulton County ARFF Renovations Underway

By: Willie Franklin



The Fulton County Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Building, more commonly known as the ARFF, is currently under renovation at the Fulton County Executive Airport. The project is being done in three phases and is currently in phase two. Phase one consisted of the demolition of some of the existing structure. Phase two is the build out of one of the two fire bays, the remodeling of a portion of the existing structure along with an addition to the second floor. The outside of the building will receive a face lift as part of phase two. This addition and build out of phase two will become the temporary offices of the Airport Management Staff. Phase three will be the completion of the second floor and the buildout of the second fire bay and will complete the renovation of the ARFF.

Currently, phase two is expected to be completed by the end of November 2022. This time frame could change due to material delays, project change orders or any number of unforeseen obstacles that could delay the project. We are ever so hopeful that time frame holds as we are in high anticipation and need of an Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Team and facility.

## New Sewer Bypass Pumps Keep Public Works Moving Forward

By: Roy Barnes

Public Works is excited about the recent purchase of 10 sewer bypass pumps from Primax Pumps. Sewer bypass pumps divert wastewater flows around infrastructure that is being repaired or replaced, allowing this work to take place without interrupting services to customers in the area. These pumps will also allow the quick response spill team to respond to emergencies quicker, reduce the volume of sewer spills, and save hundreds of thousands of dollars in rental fees.

Fulton County is proud to be one of only a few municipalities in the state of Georgia that has its own quick response team and bypass pumps, which will help the sewer division meet its goal to significantly reduce sanitary sewer overflows. Acquiring sewer bypass pumps, along with other modern technologies, allows Fulton County to continue to be a forward-leading waste water department in Georgia while keeping our water and our environment clean, which has earned Fulton County a Collection System Platinum Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.





# UPCOMING EVENTS:



### FOG Prevention Lunch & Learn

Wednesday, November 16th

12:00pm - 12:45pm

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/e5og9TaJCJLZyxNa9>

### Household Hazardous Waste Dropoff Event

Saturday, November 19th

10:00am - 1:00pm

Wolf Creek Amphitheater

Contact:

[Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov)



### Art Calendar Reception

Wednesday, December 7th

9:00am - 10:00am

Fulton County Government Center

Peachtree Level

Contact:

[Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov)



### Winterization Displays

Monday, December 5th

10:30am - 12:30pm

Fulton County South Service Center

Tuesday, December 6th

10:30am - 12:30pm

Customer Service Center @ Maxwell Rd



### Winterization Lunch & Learn

Thursday, December 15th

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/TNaVC1eTonSdm1z59>

For more information about winterization programs contact:

[Amy.Warnock@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Amy.Warnock@fultoncountyga.gov)

## Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Chairman Robb Pitts

(At-Large) 404-612-8200

Vice-Chair Liz Hausmann

(District 1) 404-612-8213

Commissioner Bob Ellis

(District 2) 404-612-8216

Commissioner Lee Morris

(District 3) 404-612-9800

Commissioner Natalie Hall

(District 4) 404-612-8226

Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington Jr.

(District 5) 404-613-0202

Commissioner Kadijah Abdur-Rahman

(District 6) 404-612-8222