



CONNECTIONS

Fulton County Public Works' Quarterly Newsletter



America Recycles Day

By: Hannah Penn



IN THIS ISSUE

America Recycles Day
Pg. 1

Airport Projects Take Off
Pg. 1

Director's Corner
Pg. 2

T-SPLOST Update
Pg. 3

Tech-Talk: Report Cards
Pg. 4

Pine Valley Ribbon Cutting
Pg. 6

On November 15, the Public Education and Outreach team joined forces with Department of Real Estate and Asset Management (DREAM) to highlight the single-stream recycling program offered to Fulton County employees at office buildings throughout the county. Participants were given the opportunity to sign up for a desk recycling bin, provided by DREAM, as well as learn the types of recyclable materials Fulton County is currently able to accept through its single stream program.

The display table included an engaging activity where visitors to the table were asked to recycle different everyday household objects into a variety of recycling boxes based on the composition of the material. After recycling 5 objects, visitors were treated to a reusable metal straw that can be used on the go in place of plastic or even paper straws commonly used at restaurants.

Fulton County provides a single stream recycling service at its office buildings for the items listed on the Fulton County Means Green! flyers posted throughout the building. DREAM is also working to provide small blue recycling bins that can be placed at employee's desks. If you are in need of a blue recycling bin for your desk, please contact Shaista Begum at shaista.begum@fultoncountyga.gov.

Airport Projects Taking Off

By: Tim Beggerly

After a year of planning and securing funding, airport projects are starting to take off. In preparation for construction of new hangars in the North Terminal Area, conversion of an old runway into a state of the art taxiway system has begun. The taxiway will connect the new hangar area with the primary runway, meet new FAA design standards, and be lit with LED taxi lights. This is funded by a combination of state, federal, and local dollars. Project cost is \$5M.



Other projects have also begun such as the foundation stabilization and interior demolition of the old Fire Rescue Station and the renovation of the Beacon Tower which includes installation of the latest technology LED lighting system. In addition is the repaving (overlay) of Aviation Circle which is part of the on-going SPLOST Program. And last, we have just completed the remarking of our primary runway which included a safety upgrade by adding Surface Painted Runway Hold Markings.



Director's Corner



David Clark

It is exciting times for Fulton County and the Public Works employees. With the full support of the Board of Commissioners, the Manager's Office and Human Resources Department continues to improve ways to better engage Fulton County's employees with their supervisors as part of the overall Performance Management Program. As most of you know, over the past two years, all Fulton County departments have been setting performance based goals on a departmental level. Public Works continues to be on track for 2019 and we should earn another bonus in early 2020.

The exact amount will not be known until the 2020 budget has been approved by the BOC and the final performance numbers are turned in.

In 2020, the next phase of the overall program will begin. Currently all supervisors and managers are taking a course that will help guide them in developing individual performance management goals for each of their employees. This new performance management program is designed to better foster the relationships between the employees and the supervisors by allowing specific annual goals to be set and monitored throughout the year. At this time, future pay adjustments will not be tied to this part of the program. However, in the future, it is the intent of the Manager's Office to move away from departmental goals as the basis for the bonuses and towards these individual goals and overall performance.

One of the key elements of this program will be quarterly check-in meetings between the supervisor and the employee. These meetings will give both the opportunity to review the current goals the employee is working towards as well as adjusting them when necessary. My previous employers had a very similar program and I found it invaluable in discussing my overall performance with my supervisors and to better clarify the specific expectations that they had for my performance. Therefore, I suspect it will be equally valuable here in Fulton.

The program will gradually roll out during the first half of 2020, so be looking for meeting invites between yourself and your supervisor in early 2020.

Promotions
Sadie Spear-Records and Documents Coordinator
Willie Franklin-Assistant Airport Manager
Jonas Tobler-Heavy Equipment Operator
Thomas Price-Heavy Equipment Operator
Congratulations Retirees!
Ray Wooten
Grady Cochran
Simone Rolland

Upcoming Events

November 28th & 29th
FC Thanksgiving Holidays

December 4th 9:00 am
2020 Art Calendar Reception
Peachtree Level Cafe'
41 Pryor St SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

Winterization Displays
December 16, 2019 10:00am
Fulton County Government Center
Atlanta, GA

&
December 17, 2019 10:30am
Water Resources Operations Center
Alpharetta, GA

December 24th & 25th
FC Christmas Holiday

Dec. 31st & Jan 1st
FC New Year's Holiday

Welcome New Employees	
Roosevelt Addie	Airport Maintenance Worker
Preston Bouie	Maintenance Worker, Sr.
Carl Cameron	Development Site Inspector, Supv.
Belinda Napper	Development Site Inspector
Doneshia Adams	Accountant II
Clarence Husband	Heavy Equipment Operator
Jerry Jones	Heavy Equipment Operator
Stetson Ray	Water System Tech
Kelli Edwards	Environmental Quality and Education Manager
Monica Rossell	Administrative Coordinator II
Sean Sager	Maintenance Worker, Sr.
Bimal Pathak	Commercial Pretreatment Inspector II
Ernst Jean-Pierre	Commercial Pretreatment Inspector II

PEO Explores the Mysteries of the Sewers

By: Kelli Edwards

Clean Water Week is observed each year during the third week of October. During this time, water professionals promote water quality by discussing the processes used to clean wastewater before it returns to the environment. For this year's observance of Clean Water Week, the Public Education and Outreach (PEO) team held our second annual Mysteries of the Sewer Truck-or-Treat event. PEO educators and volunteers provided hands-on activities and experiences, designed to encourage community members and their families to think about pollution prevention and water quality.



At each event, program guests investigated the use of science and technology in our Mad Scientist lab experiments. Youth were excited to create their own "Spooky Slime" and discuss best practices for discarding fats, oils, and grease (F.O.G.). The PEO staff also brought along a display of how F.O.G. can block pipes and drains, ultimately, preventing the flow of clean water. No October event is ever complete without fresh popcorn, cotton candy, sweet treats, and giveaways. We would like to extend a special statement of gratitude to our wonderful staff, volunteers, and our program partners at the Johns Creek Environmental Campus and the South Fulton Arts Center. If you are interested in learning more about clean water week and how you can participate in next year's celebration, please contact Kelli L. Edwards at Kelli.Edwards@fultoncountyga.gov or 404-612-8745.

Public Works by the Numbers October 2019

Water Resources	991.42 MG	Total Water Distributed (Million Gallons)
	9.11%	Non-revenue Water (annualized)
	32	Meters Replaced
	1,171.80 MG	Total Wastewater Treated (Million Gallons)
	55.82	Sewer Easement Cleared (acres)
	174	Water and Sewer Permits Processed
	0 (YTD: 27)	Sewer Overflow >10,000 Gal
	3 (YTD: 33)	Sewer Overflow <10,000 Gal
	22.34	Reuse Water Provided JCEC (Million Gallons)
	5.83	Reuse Water Provided Little River (Million Gallons)
2,200	Citizens Reached by PEO staff	

TSPLOST Update

By: Randy Beck

The Citizens Oversight Council held its 2019 final quarterly meeting on October 4, 2019. Topics of conversation were Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) revenue figures from the Georgia Department of Revenue; citizens overall awareness of TSPLOST projects versus regular transportation projects funded through local taxes; upcoming efforts to secure TSPLOST into the future; an overview of the County's responsibility as the administrator of the TSPLOST program to provide program guidance and; the lack of guidance from the Senate Bill and Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) regarding potential TSPLOST project modifications, timing changes, funding allocations and project substitution.



On October 25, 2019, the annual meeting of the TSPLOST Project Managers and City Managers occurred. This annual assessment of the TSPLOST program by all participating cities provides an excellent forum to share ideas, discuss challenges and look collectively to the upcoming year. Topics discussed this year included the following: revenue figures from the Georgia Department of Revenue running at about 90% of projections; TSPLOST project identification practices and means for increasing the general public's perception; discussion of the Citizen's Oversight Council's concern with assuring transparency and community input on TSPLOST project modifications, funds reallocation and the need for an approved process; ensuing conversation from the individual cities and how they are currently handling the project modification and fund reallocation issue and; the presentation of the first annual TSPLOST countywide project report encompassing a complete list of projects and the progress of each projects as generated by the County's Capital Projects website from information entered by each city.

Tech Talk-Report Card for Flow Monitors

By: Anna Skipper

Fulton County uses sensors called flow monitors to track depth and velocity in our collection system. We have a large system with over 200 flow monitors. Our largest sewer basin, Big Creek, one of five, has 814 miles of sewer pipe and 70 monitors. The monitors take measurements at 15 minute intervals, and with a large basin like Big Creek we are generating over 2000 measurements a day. That's too much data for humans to look at and understand without help from man's 21st century best friend: the computer.

To help us turn this large, unwieldy amount of raw data into digestible and actionable information, we have developed a report card that is a summary of both the performance of the system at individual monitoring locations and the characteristics of the sewer flow at that location. First, we chose performance metrics for both dry and wet weather. Then we determined what values of each metric were considered acceptable, concerning, or problematic. After that, we weighted each metric depending on how severe we deemed failure of that metric to be. For example, not meeting capacity requirements during dry weather will automatically result in a D grade because this is a performance metric we want to ensure we are meeting.

A report card is created using this analysis for a given period of time – in this example, July to September. The grade that the monitor received and the performance metric values used to determine that grade are shown at the top of the report card. Additional information shown on the report is the flow rate ranges, average flow during dry weather in million gallons (MGD), and the extra volume in million gallons due to storms. We compare the storms and the system's response that occurred during a quarter of the year to two previous measurement periods: the previous year's quarter and the season (in this example, summer 2018).

The creation of these report cards is now fully automated using Python, an open-source programming language, and LaTeX, a markup language document preparation system. Automation allows us to quickly create report cards for each flow monitor in a particular basin and to repeat this analysis every quarter. When we group all the flow monitors in a basin together, trends and trouble spots start to emerge. As we track the performance of these basins over time, we will be able to understand even more about our system and its behavior.



Report Card Produced by Python software to make comparisons in wastewater collection system flow monitors for year and seasons.



Fulton County Public Works Hosts 4th Annual Model Water Tower Competition

By: Amy Warnock

On October 30th, students from four Fulton County middle schools gathered at the Tom Lowe Drinking Water Treatment Plant for the fourth annual Fulton County Model Water Tower Competition. Nineteen teams, with 54 total participants came from Bear Creek, Haynes Bridge, Holcomb Bridge, and Ridgeview Charter middle schools to compete.

The Model Water Tower Competition is an engineering design contest. Students are given specific criteria for height and volume, and a goal of creating the most efficient water tower. Scores are determined by measuring the weight of the tower, the amount of weight the tower can support, and the speed with which the tower fills and drains, as well as from an interview by a panel of judges. A separate award is also given for artistic design.

This year's first place award went to Team "Lit Fireballs" from Haynes Bridge Middle School. Second place honors went to Team "R2D2" from Holcomb Bridge Middle School, and third place was awarded to Team "Pumpkinators", also from Haynes Bridge Middle School. This year's Artistic Design award went to the beautifully designed tower of Team "Power Plants", from Bear Creek Middle School.

During the competition day, students have their towers judged, participate in educational activities, and take a tour of the drinking water treatment facility. They also have the opportunity to interact with many different water professionals throughout the day. There were 30 volunteers from the Department of Public Works, Veolia, and from other utilities and organizations in the area came out to help measure, interview, and score the students' entries. One of the goals of the competition is to introduce students to careers in the field of water and wastewater that they may not have considered previously.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers for another successful competition. We look forward to including even more schools next year.

Building Partnerships through Annual Rivers Alive Cleanups

By: Shelley Lange

Public Education Outreach (PEO) works tirelessly to promote environmental stewardship and to build its volunteer base. Annual water and land clean ups are becoming a very special area of need within Fulton County. By reaching out to employees and partnering with other municipalities, community groups, nature centers, private companies, and the National Parks Service, PEO grows its volunteer ranks.

Annually in the fall, PEO partners with Rivers Alive, a volunteer cleanup program that targets all waterways in the state of Georgia including streams, rivers, lakes, beaches and wetlands. Rivers Alive is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division's Environmental Outreach Program. While PEO schedules clean ups throughout the year, the Rivers Alive clean ups have allowed us to really ramp up the clean ups, and get in touch with new partners.

On August 24th PEO partnered with the Autrey Mill Nature Preserve and Heritage Center in Johns Creek on a stream clean up, Adopt-A-Stream Bacterial Sampling Demonstration and a tour of the Tom Lowe Atlanta-Fulton County Water Treatment Plant. This event was followed by an October 1st corporate clean up with the Xylem Corporation. PEO, Xylem and our long standing partner, the National Parks Service, hit the Chattahoochee River in canoes. Finally on October 4th, PEO, the Blue Heron Nature Preserve (BHNP), and a new social group joined forces to initiate a day of service to help clean up Nancy Creek. These 3 clean ups alone resulted in over 300 pounds of debris being removed from of our waterways. While we value our partners in good water stewardship, both old and new, we take this time to also thank our own Public Works employees for your well established friendships and partnerships in the Rivers Alive program – you answer the call – every time! To learn more about participating in a cleanup or organizing your own, visit <https://riversalive.georgia.gov/about-rivers-alive>, or call PEO at 404-612-7400.



Pine Valley Ribbon Cutting

By: Walter Rekulc

On Friday, October 4, 2019 the Public Works Department hosted a ribbon cutting to highlight the completion of the work to repair a major failure in our wastewater collection system in Union City. On December 24th, opposite 5423 Pine Valley Drive, the 50 year old 48-inch ductile iron pipe collapsed, causing one half of Pine Valley Dr to erode into the hole. This trunk line is known as the Deep Creek Basin and serves residents and businesses in Union City, City of Fairburn, and City of South Fulton.

In response to this failure, On-Site Development, Inc. was called on to secure the road from collapsing further and to open up the sewer pipe to allow some flow to pass. Sunbelt Rentals, Inc was contracted and they installed bypass pumps with 400 feet of hoses to bypass the collapsed pipe. They also brought a pedestrian bridge on site to give a means for three homeowners to access their homes at the end of Pine Valley Drive. Sunbelt then arranged to have two monitors maintain these pumps 24 hours a day, 7-days a week. By January 9th, 2019 half the road was reopened and the three residents could drive to their homes.

Around this time another section of 48-inch sewer line collapsed. This Sewer Pipe was 500 feet downstream from Pine Valley Drive. Due to this failure, and some additional video inspection along this trunk line, the scope of the project expanded from a 500 foot repair to a 3,134 foot replacement and rehabilitation and replacement of 17 Manholes.

On January 24th another 48-inch ductile iron pipe collapsed at the rear of Ring Power Crane Company. When the sewer pipe collapsed it also caused an 8-inch water line to break and created even more complications. Sunbelt then set up additional pumps with 680 linear feet of bypass line to a manhole at the rear of the property. By January 30th we had the line repaired and increased the scope of the project by 1034 linear feet plus 2 new manholes, or a total project length of 4169 linear feet.

All manhole and line work was completed on September 17th and flow was returned to the new pipe. All pumps were removed on September 30th and all Diversion lines were removed October 12th.

We appreciate the patience of the property owners, Union City, Fairburn, South Fulton, CSX Railroad, GA DOT, Ring Power Crane Company during the many steps to repair and improve this system and the assistance provided to make this project a success.

We believe we have made a vast improvement to our pipe system by using HOBAS pipe that has a 50 to 100 year life and using Madewell epoxy with a similar life cycle lining our



Fulton County

Board of Commissioners

General Number 404-612-8200

Chairman Rob Pitts (At-Large)

Vice-Chair Lee Morris (District 3)

Commissioner Liz Hausmann (District 1)

Commissioner Bob Ellis (District 2)

Commissioner Natalie Hall (District 4)

Commissioner Marvin S. Arrington Jr. (District 5)

Commissioner Joe Carn (District 6)

Important Contacts for Employees

For payroll, leave, or overtime questions:

[Cherylyn Griffin](#) 404.612.7444

For direct deposit, credit union, MARTA, or tax questions:

[Maxine Wright](#) 404.612.7724

For 457b questions:

[Tomekia Mance](#) 404.612.7668

For 401a questions:

Mass Mutual 800.743.5274

For pension (old plan) questions:

Finance Department 404.612.7600

For employee benefits questions:

Finance Department 404.612.7605

For ADA questions:

[Nadine Oka](#) 404.612.7390