

PCWASA Celebrating 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (PCWASA), in addition to the 20th year the utility has been operating the community's sewer infrastructure. PCWASA officials have drafted a resolution to commemorate this historical event.

PCWASA was created by Act of the Georgia General Assembly on March 31, 1987. Ten years later, on May 29, 1997, the Authority acquired the facilities and infrastructure of the sewer system from Georgia Utilities, to begin operations.

This purchase by the Authority was made possible by the issuance of revenue bonds.



The Authority passed a Series 1997 A bond issue to raise just over \$25 million, while another \$1.45 million in bonds were sold through a Series 1997 B bond issue.

An additional bond issue in 2002 garnered

another \$15 million-plus for PCWASA to invest in the necessary renewal and expansion of the sewer system, while bond issues in 2005 and 2013 allowed the Authority to refinance all of its outstanding debt. As a result, the current outstanding principal balance is approximately \$19.9 million.

Since its founding, the Authority has effectively managed its system to garner a "AA+" bond rating from Standard & Poor's, a clean audit opinion for 10 consecutive years, and a Collection System Silver Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals for attaining a grade of 94.9 on its annual system review by the water/sewer industry.

Manhole rehab continues for PCWASA system

With extensive data collected on the condition of PCWASA sewer lines and manholes by RedZone Robotics, the Authority Board has approved the next phase of manhole rehabilitation for the utility's sewer collection system.

During its June Board Meeting, the PCWASA Board awarded a low bid of \$404,380 to Vac Vision Environmental. Authority engineering consultants from Integrated Science and Engineering (ISE) prepared the drawings and specifications for this project, which involves the rehab or repair of 215 of the remaining 629 manholes in need of maintenance.

Appropriations for this project come from the FY 2017 Renewal & Extension Budget of ratepayer dollars reinvested back into the system.



Flow monitoring and hydraulic modeling collect data

To make sure its sewer system is functioning properly in all types of conditions, PCWASA is investing \$300,000 in sanitary sewer system flow monitoring and hydraulic modeling technology.

First, the Authority awarded a bid to ADS Environmental Service to perform flow monitoring within its system. Flow monitoring is used to attain a base measure of flow within a sewer system, so PCWASA staff then can identify areas of inflow and infiltration (I&I) during heavy rain events.

In addition, the PCWASA Board approved a contract with MWH Americas, LLC to perform hydraulic modeling of the sanitary sewer system. Hydraulic modeling allows PCWASA staff to assess the performance of the sewer system under various peak conditions.

Flow monitoring and advanced hydraulic modeling will certify the sewer pipe and pump capacity of the PCWASA system, so the Authority remains in compliance with requirements of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. In addition, the technology will aid the Authority in evaluating the impact of any major customer connections or new additions to the system. Finally, it can be used in conjunction with data already collected by RedZone Robotics to identify necessary repair and rehab projects.



Timber sale brings in more than \$40,000

As is customary for a water or sewer utility such as PCWASA, with acreage that requires proper land management, timber must be harvested periodically to maintain the health and function of the property. When a utility can gain revenue from the timber, it's an added bonus.

PCWASA recently awarded a best bid for timber harvest and sale to Jordan Forest Products, located in Barnesville, Georgia. This timber harvest resulted in revenues that totaled \$41,752.

These dollars will be reinvested back into the

PCWASA system to improve operations, pursue necessary construction and capital projects, as well as continue proper land management practices, all for the benefit of ratepayers.



Fats, oils and grease cause sewer overflows

A recent sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) within the PCWASA system provides an example of why Authority employees continually educate customers on the importance of NOT pouring fats, oils, or grease (FOG) down the drain.

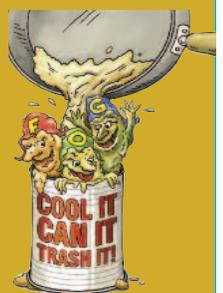
PCWASA sanitary sewer maintenance crews were dispatched recently to areas of the sewer system near American Walk Townhomes and The Gates Subdivision, in order to clear a grease blockage within the sewer main. The sewer main was clogged as a result of FOG, which solidifies within sewer lines after these materials are poured down the drain by residents.

Sewer overflows caused by FOG are a threat to public health and the environment, in addition to being very costly to clean. FOG can damage PCWASA sewer lines and treatment plants as well.

Please do not place FOG down your drain; instead, put these substances in a can or container to be thrown away in the trash. Think before pouring FOG down the sink!

Fight F.O.G.

**Please Don't Put
Fats, Oil & Grease
DOWN YOUR DRAIN.**



The Ultimate Science Lab – Teachers Tour PCWASA Plant

Prior to the start of this school year, the PCWASA staff hosted approximately 60 teachers from Fayette County Public Schools for tours at its Rockaway Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Local educators received insights on the science and processes involved in wastewater treatment at the Rockaway Plant, which has a 4 million gallon per day (MGD) treatment capacity. As a result, these teachers now can use PCWASA resources to assist in the instruction of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) curricula.

“I think there will be a lot of opportunities for our students to learn more about STEAM

curricula by visiting these (PCWASA) facilities,” says Rae Presley-King, Director of Secondary School Improvement and Professional Learning for Fayette County Public Schools. “By taking teachers on these types of field trips, we make their standards and curricula more relevant. It’s one thing to talk about the curricula, but it’s another to see it in action.”

According to Virginia Gibbs, Work-Based Learning Coordinator with Fayette County Public Schools, Fayette County School Superintendent Jody Barrow encourages “externships” for teachers to meet local business and community leaders by going onsite to their respective organizations.

“We want to get teachers together and have them start focusing on how to bring the outside world into the classroom,” says Gibbs. “We have a weeklong summer program of ‘STEAM Tours’ and this (tour of the Rockaway Plant) provided a great chance for teachers to see something they’ve never seen before.”

Gibbs notes that site visits such as the one at PCWASA get teachers going creatively and collaboratively, providing ideas for projects that students can pursue in class.

“We learned how people benefit every day from these (wastewater treatment) processes, and how this (PCWASA operations) is such a critical piece of our community,” says Gibbs.



Stephen Hogan (center), PCWASA General Manager, explains the wastewater treatment process at the Authority’s Rockaway Plant to educators from Fayette County Public Schools.



Susan Lee (center), PCWASA Division Manager of Operations, leads a tour of the Authority’s Rockaway Plant for teachers from Fayette County Public Schools.



Susan Lee (left), PCWASA Division Manager of Operations, introduces teachers from Fayette County Public Schools to the wastewater treatment process at the Rockaway Plant.

Georgia Model Water Tower Comp set for Oct. 26

In an effort to continually support the teaching of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) curricula, while cultivating the next generation of water professionals, PCWASA again will be supporting the annual Georgia Model Water Tower Competition for Fayette County.

The Fayette County portion of the statewide competition will be held on Thursday Oct. 26, 2017, at J.C. Booth Middle School. PCWASA General Manager Stephen Hogan, a professional engineer (P.E.) himself, is serving as an advisor to the students.

“This is a great event, because it highlights STEAM curricula by giving students real-world, hands-on projects that interest them,” says Dr. Kathleen Lanman, STEAM Coordinator and Gifted Science Faculty Member at Booth Middle School.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition is a statewide event organized by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association.

Participating students are challenged with building a functioning model water tower from household items. Their projects then are judged according to structural efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, and design ingenuity.

The objective of the Georgia Model Water Tower Competition is to make participants more aware of the importance of reliable drinking water, while introducing them to rewarding (career) opportunities available in the water profession.



PCWASA Division Manager Honored for Service

During the Annual Conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) this summer, Keisha Lisbon Thorpe, PCWASA Division Manager of Technical Services, received the Alva T. Storey Award for industry service.

The purpose of this Award is to recognize a person for years of outstanding service related to activities in support of GAWP. The award honors a water professional who has provided a level of service above and beyond the call of duty.

The Alva T. Storey Award reflects Keisha’s voluntary service in the form of GAWP leadership

and administration, membership recruitment, technical contributions, training and encouragement of other water professionals, as well as support and advocacy for the Association.



Keisha Lisbon Thorpe (center) received the Alva T. Storey Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals this summer.

**It's a Toilet,
Not a Trashcan!**

Please do not flush non-dispersible items, such as:

- X Facial Tissue (such as Kleenex)
- X Cotton Swabs (such as Q-tips)
- X Wet Wipes (even “flushable”)
- X Cat Litter (even “flushable”)
- X Feminine Hygiene Products
- X Dental Floss



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