

# WATER WORKS

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## General Manager P. Michael Thomas Retires

Clayton County Water Authority General Manager P. Michael Thomas retired on June 22 after successfully leading CCWA through the great recession, droughts and ever-changing industry regulations from December 2006 – June 2018.

Thomas' vision kept CCWA on a path of innovation while adding a more community focus to our mission and fostering a company-wide culture of community engagement. Under his leadership, constructed treatment wetlands garnered accolades from industry peers; a new stormwater utility was created; a new logo was unveiled; a Small Local Business Enterprise Program was created; and our water & sewer rates remained near the lowest in the metro area due in part to his goal of using a 'pay as you go' system for funding capital improvement projects to help reduce CCWA's debt service.

During a retirement reception on June 19, Thomas received a commendation from Georgia Governor Nathan Deal and a resolution from State Representative Mike Glanton (75th District). Glanton commended Thomas for his "vision and unyielding commitment to the water industry that have set the standard for public service."

Clayton County Commission Chairman Jeffery E. Turner, Commissioner Sonna Singleton Gregory and Commissioner Gail Hambrick presented Thomas with a proclamation during his last board meeting, commending him for his leadership and commitment to the community.

CCWA earned many accolades during Thomas' tenure including, being named one of the Top Water-Wise Communities in the U.S.; the WaterReuse Award of Merit and the designation of being a Utility of the Future, Today. Thomas also had the distinct honor of serving on Governor Sonny Perdue's Water Contingency Planning Task Force in 2009 and being named Man of the Year in 2018 by the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Council.

Thomas' legacy will be his steadfast leadership during challenging times, his vision for keeping CCWA innovative & industry leading and his commitment to our community.

Thomas will remain active in the water industry through work with the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. He and his wife Lisa will still call Clayton County home.



## Local Students Receive Water Environment Awards for Water-Related Science Fair Projects



Morrow High School student Mickelison Womack is pictured with his parents Micah and Kevin Womack, Assistant General Manager – Operations Jim Poff, CCPS Coordinator of K – 12 Science Janetta Greenwood and CCPS Superintendent Dr. Morcease J. Beasley.

CCWA's Board of Directors recognized Rex Mill Middle School student Anthony Griffin and Morrow High School student Mickelison Womack for their outstanding water related science fair projects during the May 3 Board Meeting.

Griffin, who was also a 2016 award recipient, received the junior level award for his project, "Using Simple Purification Methods to Make Clean Water During an Emergency." Womack received the senior level award for his project, "Can Daphnia Magna and Elodea Monitor Water Toxicity?" Womack also placed 2nd in his division at the state science fair.



Rex Mill Middle School student Anthony Griffin is pictured with Assistant General Manager – Operations Jim Poff, his father Tony Griffin, CCPS Coordinator of K – 12 Science Janetta Greenwood and CCPS Superintendent Dr. Morcease J. Beasley

## CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS



### Go Paperless

Cut the clutter and go paperless. Visit [www.ccwa.us](http://www.ccwa.us) to sign up for Paperless Billing.



### Walmart

Pay your CCWA bill, along with other utility bills, at any Walmart location for a convenience fee. Payments may be made using cash or a pin-based debit card. To make a payment:

- Just take your current water bill to any Walmart location.
- Make a payment in cash or with a pin-based debit card.
- Once the transaction is processed, the customer receives a receipt as proof of payment.



### Speedpay

Speedpay is located in most Kroger and Walgreens locations.

(powered by Western Union)

Pay online ([www.ccwa.us](http://www.ccwa.us)), by phone (1.877.467.5110) or at a Western Union walk in center or agent location using our third party payment processor Speedpay. A \$1.25 fee is charged for each transaction. Visit [ccwa.us](http://ccwa.us) to find a Western Union location near you.

Quality Water, Quality Service



## Highlights



### Newman Wetlands Center: Clayton County's Hidden Sanctuary

The Center is located at 2755 Freeman Road in Hampton.

#### Trail Hours:

Monday - Sunday 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

#### Interpretive Building Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Admission is free.

The Newman Wetlands Center attracts visitors from around the world, but many Clayton County residents have never visited. Why not spend some time there getting to know the 1/2 mile trail and Learning Center? You might see some of the 130 bird species and other wildlife that stop over during migration or take advantage of this habitat for nesting or permanent residence. The trail is wheel-chair and stroller accessible. Learn more by visiting [www.ccwa.us](http://www.ccwa.us) or find us on Facebook - @Newman Wetlands Center.

## CCWA Earns Spring Conference Awards

Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) employees brought home several awards from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) recent Spring Conference.

The Northeast Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) in Rex was named the 2018 Wastewater Plant of the Year for the Advanced Treatment 6 - 9.9 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) category for its performance during 2017. (Shown bottom right)

According to Water Reclamation Manager Chris Hamilton, the Northeast WRF has a long history of being an award winning facility. Since 1989, it has now won 10 GAWP Plant of the Year Awards and two Water Environment Federation/Burke Safety Awards. The W.J. Hooper Water Treatment Plant in Stockbridge earned a Certificate of Achievement for High Achievement for Water Plant Operation in the Surface Water 15 MGD to 49.99 MGD category.

CCWA's Stormwater Maintenance Foreman Marcus McLester was named Stormwater Top Operator for the state. "Being recognized by GAWP as a Top Operator is a unique honor. Marcus has been instrumental in the startup and daily operations of CCWA's Stormwater Department," adds Stormwater Manager Kevin Osbey. "His dedication in leading our maintenance staff and working with a variety of stakeholders makes the department what it is today." (Shown bottom left)

Distribution & Conveyance Department Manager Jeff Jones was inducted into the inaugural Golden Hydrant Society for his knowledge and expertise in water distribution and the contributions he has made to the water industry. (Shown middle photo)

CCWA Board Chairman John Chafin adds that the awards are industry validation that CCWA employees are top notch. "Our employees are leaders in our state's water industry. They work hard and look for innovative ways to do their jobs and continue to earn the respect of their peers."



#### All three water reclamation facilities earned Platinum Awards for 100 percent compliance in 2017:

Northeast WRF - 9 years Platinum  
W.B. Casey Water Resource Recovery Facility - 13 years Platinum  
Shoal Creek WRF - 21 years Platinum

#### All three water reclamation facilities earned Platinum Awards for 100 percent compliance in 2017:

J.W. Smith Water Production Plant - 9 years Platinum  
Terry R. Hicks Water Production Plant - 17 years Platinum  
W.J. Hooper Plant - 20 years Platinum

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP

John Chafin, Chairman  
Marie Barber, Vice Chair  
Rodney Givens, Secretary/Treasurer  
H. Bernard Franks, General Manager

John Westervelt, Board Member  
Dr. Cephus Jackson, Board Member  
James Poff, Assistant General Manager

Robin Malone, Board Member  
Vivian Baldwin, Board Member  
Teresa Worley, Assistant General Manager

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CLAYTON COUNTY  
**Water**  
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