

WATER WORKS

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Keisha Thorpe Named New Assistant General Manager - Operations



Keisha Thorpe joined the Clayton County Water Authority team as its new Assistant General Manager-Operations in late November. She brings more than over 17 years of combined experience in water and wastewater treatment with hands on experience in distribution, collections, project management, asset management, technical support, construction and maintenance.

“Keisha is a collaborative problem solver and a detailed orientated leader who possesses excellent communication skills,” says CCWA General Manager H. Bernard Franks. “She is a professional who will give complete dedication to achieving our goals of being Innovative, Industry Leading and Community Focused.”

She is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Georgia and holds a Master of Science in Chemical Engineering. Keisha is also a Class I Public Supply System Operator; has a Level 1A, 1B and II Erosion and Sedimentation Control Certification; Pipeline & Manhole Assessment Certification; Certification in Asset Management and a Utility Management Certification. Thorpe most recently worked for the City of Atlanta Watershed Department where she served as a Watershed Director II. Prior to her role at City of Atlanta, she spent 12 years with Peachtree City Water and Sewer Authority.

In her new role at CCWA, Thorpe will be responsible for overseeing Distribution & Conveyance, Water Production, Water Reclamation and Stormwater operations.
“I am thankful for the opportunity to join the management team at Clayton County Water Authority,” says Thorpe. “I look forward to supporting CCWA’s mission of quality water and quality services and executing core strategies in managing Clayton County’s water resources.

Thorpe replaces Jim Poff, who retired November 21 after 30 years with the Authority.

Assistant General Manager Jim Poff Retires

CCWA Assistant General Manager Jim Poff retired November 21 after 30 years of service at the Authority. Poff began his career as a chemist and worked his way up to Wastewater Lab Supervisor, Water Reclamation Department Manager, Assistant General Manager – Support Services and Assistant General Manager – Operations.

Poff challenged and constantly sought to improve himself, CCWA and the water industry. He managed construction and implementation for all phases of the E.L. Huie Jr. Constructed Treatment Wetlands, also oversaw design and construction of the W.B. Casey Water Resource Recovery Facility, and upgrades at the Northeast Water Reclamation Facility and Pelletizing Facility.



His peers recognized his contributions to the water industry through several awards, including GAWP’s Ira C. Kelly Award and Top-Op Award; Water Environment Federation’s (WEF) Lab Analyst Excellence Award; and WEF Quarter Century Ops Club; he also had the honor of serving as a WEF Delegate. The CCWA Board of Directors honored Poff for his vision, leadership and commitment to the Authority.

2018 Model Water Tower Competition Held at Rex Mill Middle

CCWA hosted its first Model Water Tower Competition at Rex Mill Middle School November 14. The Georgia Association of Water Professional and the Georgia Section of the American Water Works started this competition several years ago.. The purpose is to provide information to young students on water resource engineering, infrastructure, water treatment and conservation in hope that some will become future water professionals. The mission statement for the competition is: “From Today’s Youth Come Tomorrow’s Leaders – Let’s Lead Some To The Water Profession.”

More than 80 students formed 22 teams to design and build water towers. The day of the competition, teams took their tower through several test stations (materials, dimensions, hydraulics) and an interview panel. Scoring then determines the top three teams.

1st Place Water Kids – Tyanni Roberts, Deon Williams, Jr., Candis Mickles and Kendrick Jackson

2nd Place Team Oreo – Lila Peou, Annie Nguyen, Nhi Nguyen and Bryan Colacho-Valle

3rd Place Mighty Morphin Flower Arrangers - Jennifer Castillo-Narvaez, Amanda Avelandanez, Alexa Farjardo-Guzman and Kyra Gibson



CONVENIENT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Go Paperless
Cut the clutter and go paperless. Visit 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.

Western Union
located in most Kroger and Walgreens locations.
(powered by Western Union)
Pay online (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 to find a Western Union location near you.

Highlights

TOP 5 TAKEAWAYS FOR HYDRANT FLUSHING AND WATERLINE MAINTENANCE

1. Conducted throughout the year
2. Cleans pipes and assures water flow for fire protection
3. May temporarily cause discolored water – CCWA offers easy tips for clearing
4. Affected areas notified ahead of flushing
5. Keeps drinking water safe, clean, and pleasant tasting

Frequently Asked Questions about Hydrant Flushing

The Clayton County Water Authority (CCWA) and Clayton County Fire & Emergency Services (CCFES) share an important partnership when it comes to fire hydrants. CCWA owns and maintains most fire hydrants in Clayton County and its six cities. CCWA performs regular maintenance on hydrants to remove sediment and rust from the water and maintain proper chlorine concentrations. Proper chlorine levels in the water distribution system ensure consistent quality from our treatment plant to your tap. While CCWA owns and maintains the hydrants, CCFES and the municipal fire departments are responsible for annual hydrant flushing to test fire flow capacity that helps protect public safety.

Q: Why does the water system need to be routinely flushed?

A: CCWA's water distribution system is a complex network of pipes and storage reservoirs where sediment or deposits may naturally accumulate over time. Without regular flushing, these materials may cause water quality deterioration, taste and odor problems, or discoloration of the water. Water may also stagnate in lesser used parts of the distribution system. This can result in degraded water quality.

Q. When does flushing normally occur?

A. Flushing is performed by CCFES (or other municipal fire departments) throughout the year.

Q. What should I do when I see CCWA or CCFES crews flushing hydrants in my area?

A. If you see CCFES or CCWA personnel flushing hydrants, PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY and watch for workers in or near the roadway. In addition, the roads will be wet, and the water may pond in low-lying areas for a short period of time. Inside your home, avoid turning on any faucets or fixtures while crews are flushing the hydrants. This may draw discolored water into your home piping. Avoid washing clothes during the flushing operation. Discolored water may be drawn into the washer and potentially stain clothing.

Q. How will this affect my water?

A. During the actual flushing process, water customers may experience some disturbance in their usual water service such as a short-term decrease in water pressure or discolored water. Although the water does not pose a health risk, it is recommended to avoid drinking the water until it runs clear from the tap.

- Don't prepare baby food or formula if the water is discolored. Use bottled water or pre-prepared food and formula. You can also boil the water for 5 minutes to ensure safety.
- Do not wash clothes if the water is discolored.
- It is okay to use the water for showering, bathing, and toilet flushing.

CCWA Brings Home Industry Awards

CCWA staff earned several industry awards during the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Fall Conference in November.

- ✱ Water Environment Federation Burke Safety Award – Northeast Water Reclamation Facility
- ✱ Laboratory QA/QC Award – W.B. Casey Water Resource Recovery Facility Lab
- ✱ Collection System Platinum Award
- ✱ Distribution System Gold Award

For details on these awards, visit us at ccwa.us



Conveyance Team's Preventative Maintenance Reduces Sanitary Sewer Overflows



CCWA's collection system stretches over 1,000 miles and finding problems before they develop into sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) is crucial to protecting the environment and providing customers with quality service. The task of visually inspecting these sewer lines and manholes falls upon the shoulders of Conveyance Preventive Maintenance team. They are tasked with navigating some of the county's toughest terrain daily. They navigate swamps, creek banks, and heavily wooded areas in isolated areas throughout the county.

Their efforts have been providing great results and the 2018 SSO count is down from last year. The last five months in a row we have had less than the previous year. July through October, the crews have located an astounding 26 lines that required attention. As we approach our toughest months for SSO's (December and January), we will hopefully see this trend continuing.

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CLAYTON COUNTY
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AUTHORITY