June 2020

Coming to see us? Mask up.

CFPUA's customer service staff is once again available for limited in-person services at 235 Government Center Drive and 305 Chestnut Street.

Keeping our essential staff and customers safe remains our top priority.

FIND OUT ABOUT:

- COVID-19 response
- Sign up for emergency alerts
priority. If you're planning to visit for in-person business, we ask that you wear a mask or cloth face covering.

N.C. Gov. Roy Cooper's Executive Order 147 requires people to wear a face covering in all indoor and outdoor public settings where physical distancing is not possible. Whether or not you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, masks significantly reduce your chances of spreading the virus to others.

We are grateful for our customers' cooperation and patience during this time. Remember, you can always reach us remotely at 910-332-6550 and www.CFPUA.org.

Mask Guidance

- **Cloth face coverings**
  - **Who should wear:** public
  - **When:** When out at places where social distancing is hard to maintain.
  - **Note:** Cloth masks should be washed after each use; don’t wear damp or when wet from spit / mucus.

- **Medical masks**
  - **Who should wear:** health care workers
  - **When:** During single or multiple patient interactions.

- **N95 Respirator**
  - **Who should wear:** health care workers
  - **When:** When caring for patients with COVID-19 and during procedures that put them most at risk of exposure.

Staying prepared this hurricane season
We’re all taking extra precautions to stay safe and healthy these days. As summer arrives, those measures should include getting prepared for a hurricane.

June 1 marked the start of the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Ready.gov has updated its official hurricane preparedness guidance with tips to protect against COVID-19, including while making an emergency plan, stocking up on supplies, and evacuating to a shelter.

One of the easiest steps you can take to prepare for a weather emergency is signing up for CFPUA emergency alerts through Civic Ready. This service will notify you via text, email, and/or voice call in the event of an emergency affecting your water or sewer service service.

To sign up today, visit www.CFPUA.org/CivicReady.

Southside plant says 'so long' to chlorine
Earlier this month, the last chlorine gas canisters were hauled away from CFPUA’s Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant, a milestone in the plant’s shift to ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection technology.

Use of chlorine gas to disinfect wastewater dates to Southside’s early days in the 1970s, when it was a City of Wilmington wastewater treatment facility. For decades chlorine gas was the industry standard for wastewater treatment, but in recent years utilities have been phasing it out for more environmentally friendly and lower-risk methods.

In February, crews completed an 11-month, $2.6 million project to add UV disinfection treatment at Southside. With testing complete and the system fully operational, the last bulk storage chlorine gas cylinders could be disassembled and removed.

Elimination of the bulk storage of chlorine gas is considered a priority under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Risk Management Program. The removal of the gas cylinders will culminate in the plant’s de-registration from the EPA’s Risk Management Program and enhance the safety and health of our staff and Southside’s neighbors, as well as site security.
Check out February's Water Works newsletter for details on the UV treatment upgrades.

Employee Spotlight

*Each month we introduce you to one of the more than 300 employees at CFPUA who work to provide you with the best water and wastewater services.*
Name: Ted Beeson
Birthplace: Ohio
Department/Division: Meter Services
Position: Meter Reader
Length of Employment: 2.5 years

Briefly describe your typical day at work: In the mornings I get my work assignments, which could be paperwork, readings, or investigating water consumption. Meter-reading used to be all manual, but with our new beacon system it’s all done electronically. I’ll also change out meters, investigate leaks, and check on broken meters.

What do you enjoy most about your job? There’s something new every day. I enjoy being outdoors, and I get to see different areas of town on my routes.

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA: Adjusting to a new type of work environment. My background is in welding and manufacturing in the private sector -- there’s a lot of repetition. This job requires problem-solving and adapting to new things every day.

What advice would you give to recent new hires? Ask as many questions as you can and talk to as many people as you can. Listen to the senior folks who have been here and have the knowledge.

What’s one thing you’d want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general? We are you. Our families live here, we live here. I can honestly say our employees give 110 percent to make this the cleanest, most-effective water system and strive to be best.

What do you like to do when you're not at work? I spend a lot of time with my family -- I'm married with three daughters and three grandkids. They play baseball and softball, so I go to a lot of games.