



Water Works

April 2023



CFPUA Board moves to new Government Center

As of April, the CFPUA Board's regular meetings have moved to the newly opened New Hanover County Government Center building.

New Hanover County Government Center is located at [230 Government](#)

FIND OUT ABOUT:

[Sweeney Treatment Enhancements Project](#)

[Current Job Opportunities](#)

[Center Drive](#). CFPUA Board meetings will be held in Rooms 138/139 on the ground floor of the administrative building. Parking is available in the lot to the north of the building, which can be accessed from Government Center Drive or South College Road.

The CFPUA Board meets at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Board materials, including meeting agendas and minutes, [are available at this link](#).

For a schedule of upcoming CFPUA Board and committee meetings, visit [CFPUA.org](#).

[Click here to read more about the new government center.](#)

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[2022 Sustainability and Resiliency Report](#)



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First filter exchange starts at Sweeney Plant



The first change-out of granular activated carbon (GAC) in CFPUA's new water filters is underway.

This month, crews removed spent GAC media from the first of the eight new filters at CFPUA's Sweeney Water Treatment Plant. The media will be taken off-site for regeneration, after which it can be put back into use at Sweeney.

Over the coming months, GAC in the remaining seven filters will be changed out to keep the system operating its best.

Why do the filters need changing out?

In October 2022, CFPUA brought its new GAC filters online at the Sweeney Plant. The filters were installed to removed GenX and other PFAS compounds from treated drinking water.

GAC works through a process called “adsorption,” in which PFAS clings to the surface area of the GAC particles. Over time, as more and more PFAS is captured, there is less available surface area to capture contaminants. To ensure the filters continue achieving a high level of PFAS removal, CFPUA will periodically change out the GAC filter media.

How long will it take?

CFPUA's GAC vendor finished removing media from the first filter in early April. The media has been hauled offsite and is being regenerated, in which it is exposed to extreme temperatures to destroy adsorbed PFAS.

Regenerating and returning the GAC to service at the Sweeney Plant is estimated to take 45 to 60 days, after which crews will begin the exchange process on the remaining filters. Filters will be exchanged one at a time to ensure the system can continue meeting customer demand.

How often will CFPUA change out the filter media?

CFPUA expects to replace the GAC in each filter approximately every 300 days. During this first year of operation, staff is closely monitoring the filters' performance and will adjust the replacement schedule, as necessary, to ensure they continue achieving a high level of PFAS removal.



A new look for the Veterans Park Water Tower



The Veterans Park Water Tower after (left) and before (right) the rehabilitation project.

That's a wrap on the rehabilitation project for the Veterans Park Water Tower!

Crews have completed a 3-month project to clean, paint, and repair the elevated water tank, located next to Murray Middle School. The project required taking the water tank temporarily out of service, and as of mid-April the tank is back in operation.

CFPUA is happy to report that no water supply or water quality issues were experienced during the project, which not only improved the tank's appearance, but extended its useful life.

Fun at the 2023 Azalea Festival Parade

CFPUA staff and Wayne Drop joined the 2023 N.C. Azalea Festival Parade this month in downtown Wilmington! Check out photos from the event:



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.



Jodie Taylor

Pump Station Operator

Name: *Jodie Taylor*

Birthplace: *Berea, Ohio*

Department/Division: *Collections*

Position: *Pump Station Operator*

Length of employment: *3 years*

Briefly describe your typical day at work: *I have 23 wastewater pump stations to look after (out of 154 total at CFPWA). I start off by collecting readings and making sure the pumps, control panels, bar screens, grinders, lightings, and all other equipment are operating properly. I check the panels, inspect the wet wells, and do any necessary work to keep the aesthetics of the property pleasing to the public, such as cutting the grass, trimming trees, trash duty, etc.*

What do you enjoy most about your job? *This is my second career; I retired from the Teamsters in 2018. I've found it fascinating learning about the water and sewer system and*

all the work that goes into getting services to the consumer.

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA? *Receiving my Collections 1 Certification and getting hired into my current position, along with working with a great crew with my Foremen Ron Burns and Jordan Frye.*

What advice would you give to recent new hires? *My best advice would be, 'Don't look at this as a job, this is a career!' Look long term; CFPUA is career you can retire from. Learn all you can, gain experience, then put it to use to further your career You also have the option of transfer to other job openings within the company. That is a huge plus.*

What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general? *What the customer is not seeing is our department working hard to make sure that the water and sewer services in our homes that we all take for granted are working. Whether you are flushing a toilet or turning on the faucet, all the hard work being done by the Collections Department is so you don't have to worry.*

What do you like to do when you're not at work? *I enjoy fishing and hog hunting with my son. I spend a lot of with my wife, just enjoying our new home. I have trained in the Martial Arts for 40-plus years and I'm working on teaching my son.*

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