



October 2023



Safe Medication Disposal Event this Weekend

Have expired medications you need to get rid of? DON'T flush them down the toilet, but DO take them to Novant Health's Safe Medication Disposal Event!

Saturday, October 28 from 10 a.m.

FIND OUT ABOUT:

[Current Job Opportunities](#)

[CFPUA Rates and Fees Schedule](#)

to 2 p.m., you can drop off your unused medications at two drive-through locations in Wilmington:

- Novant Health New Hanover Medical Plaza, [2243 S. 17th St.](#)
- Novant Health Scotts Hill Outpatient Surgery Center, 9104 Market St.

Novant will accept all medications, syringes, e-cigarettes, and vaping devices with the batteries removed.

Flushing medications down the toilet can put dangerous chemicals into our community's sewer system and environment.

Can't make this weekend's drop off? [Click here to find a permanent controlled substances disposal site near you.](#)

[Sweeney Treatment Enhancements Project](#)



Click the icon above to sign up for news and alerts from CFPWA through [Notify Me](#).

CONTACT US

Customer Service: (910) 332-6550

Engineering: (910) 332-6560

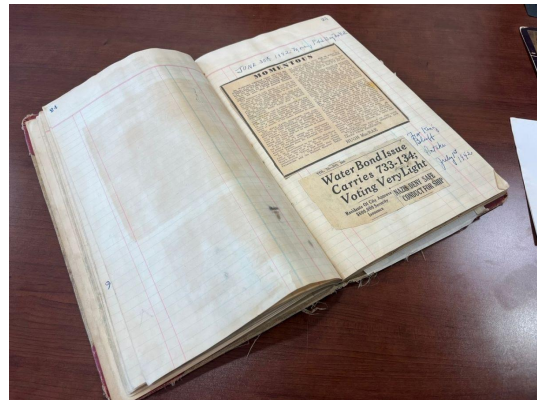
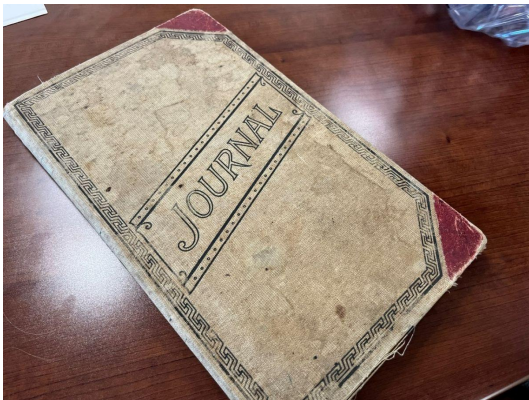
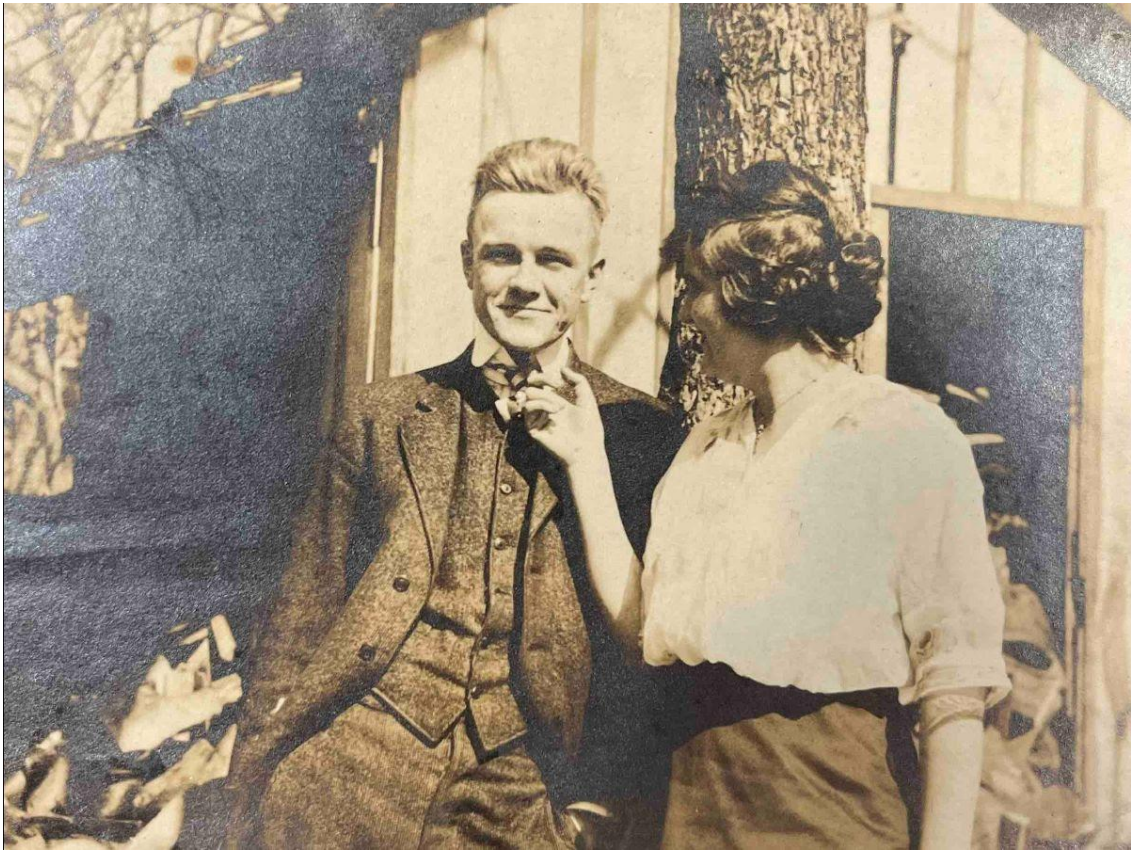
Human Resources: (910) 332-6570

Water Conservation Hotline: (910) 332-6566

Water/Sewer Emergencies: (910) 332-6565

Email: communications@cfpua.org

A Peek into Wilmington's Water History



CFPUA staff got a real treat this month when Caroline Hunnicutt of Wilmington shared a family heirloom with us: a journal belonging to her grandfather, John H. Sweeney, Jr.

As Wilmington's Chief Engineer from 1931 to 1952, Sweeney operated the city's water treatment plant. In 1943 the plant was renamed for his father, John Sweeney, Sr., who had held the Chief Engineer role from 1881 to 1931. This journal is a treasure, with entries and news clippings about Wilmington water and sewer dating back to the early 1900s. Ms. Hunnicutt even provided photos of Sweeney himself and the City's first pump house from the turn of the century.

Copies of the journal have been shared with our water treatment team at the

Sweeney Plant. We are so grateful to Ms. Hunnicutt for sharing this incredible find with CFPUA!

New Raw Water Line Will Supply Local Utilities



In November 2021, [a major break on our region's raw water line](#) threatened the water supply for CFPUA and other local utilities. While crews were able to repair that break without a service interruption to local utilities, it was a reminder that a second raw water transmission main was needed to protect services for the 500,000 water customers in the Lower Cape Fear area.

Now, money in the new State Budget will make that project a reality.

The 2023 Appropriations Act earmarked \$25 million for Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority (LCFWASA) to complete a raw water line supporting CFPUA and other regional utilities. This line will run from the Kings Bluff Pump Station on the Cape Fear River and parallel the existing LCFWASA raw water line that supplies Brunswick County, CFPUA, Pender County, and several local industrial customers.

This 54-inch-diameter main will not only increase utilities' raw water capacity,

but ensure local homes and businesses continue to receive water in the event of a break or major damage to the existing main.

CFPUA is deeply grateful to our region's legislative delegation, led by Budget Co-Chair Sen. Michael Lee, for securing this funding to benefit our customers and those of our local utility partners.

[Read WECT's story about the raw water line.](#)

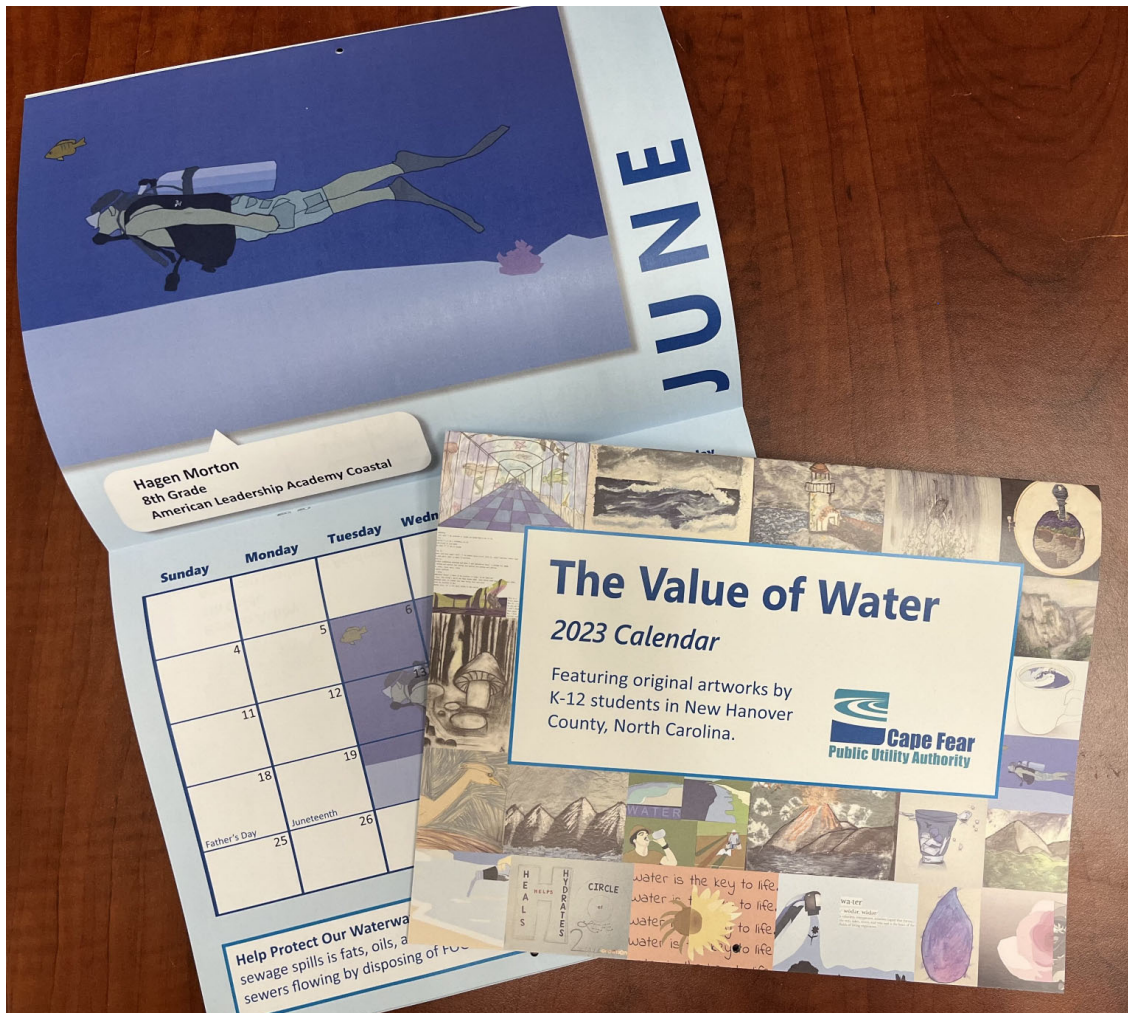
Three weeks left in Water Art Contest! 🎨

Local students have until November 15 to submit their entries for CFPUA's annual Value of Water Art Contest!

CFPUA is asking K-12 students living or attending school in New Hanover County to answer the question, "What does water mean to you?" with an original artwork.

Winners will be featured in a 2024 calendar, available for free at CFPUA's customer service centers, and in a segment on WECT.

[Click here to find the online submission form and read contest rules.](#) Winners will be announced in December.



Learn more about the contest

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.



Thomas DeCosta

Senior Industrial Electrician

Name: *Thomas (Tom) DeCosta*

Birthplace: *Acushnet, Mass.*

Department/Division: *Centralized Maintenance*

Position: *Senior Industrial Electrician*

Length of Employment: *1.5 Years*

Briefly describe your typical day at work: *A typical day for me would be to check in with my boss, Water Treatment Plant Maintenance Supervisor John Hollerbush, to see if a job might need immediate attention. If not, then I'd look at my work order list. I might be*

working at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant, Richardson Water Treatment Plant, or one of the many well sites throughout New Hanover County. My work is usually related to an electrical issue. CFPUA does an excellent job of keeping its equipment running, but if there is a problem, there is always a backup system. Centralized Maintenance does a great job of warehousing spare parts and providing workers with the tools needed to make the repairs. Once the repair is completed, I will verify its operation with the water treatment facilities and head back to the shop to file a report. I then assign the materials used to the work order and finish by re-ordering any materials used in the repairs.

What do you enjoy most about your job: *Even though I report to the same place every day, most days are different. You never know what you are going to have to work on. There can be great satisfaction in fixing something that is not operating properly. I also enjoy the people I work with.*

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA: *I haven't been with CFPUA that long, but I am proud of the electrical training program that we are running to help meet our department's electrician needs. I believe the class will help CFPUA employees get the training they need to improve at their jobs or possibly move up to a higher-paid position. The average age of an electrician in North Carolina is 55; the class will offer younger people a chance to learn a different trade.*

What advice would you give to recent new hires: *Be on time and prepared to work. Have an open mind and get to know the people you work with. Then get to know the people from other departments. CFPUA is full of great people and the organization has many opportunities for advancement if you apply yourself. New employees should use the tuition assistance program to help themselves advance in the organization.*

What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general: *I have been in the Water and Wastewater industry for over two decades and I've seen the worst. In Water and Wastewater, it can be easy to fall behind in infrastructure repairs, before you know it, every day is an emergency. It is not that way at CFPUA. Centralized Maintenance is fortunate to have a manager like Superintendent Kevin Boyett. Kevin is not afraid to get involved when he needs to; he's one phone call away. He also knows enough to stay out of the way and let professionals do their work. Our Department is dedicated to keeping the systems up and running for CFPUA.*

What do you like to do when you're not at work: *My wife Marcelle and I moved to the Cape Fear region to be with our grandchildren, so they are our focal point, but we like to hike, bike, and vacation when we can.*

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