



September 2024



CFPUA's Third Annual Water Art Contest! 🎨

CFPUA's third annual Value of Water Art Contest is now accepting submissions!

Each year, water utilities around the world celebrate "Imagine a Day Without Water." It's a chance to

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reflect on the value of clean water in our daily lives. CFPUA is celebrating with an art contest for K-12 students living or attending school in New Hanover County.

We're asking young artists to answer the question, "What does water mean to you?" with an original artwork. Winners will be featured in a 2025 calendar, available for free at CFPUA's customer service centers, and in a segment on WECT.

[Artworks can be submitted through November 15, 2024. Click here to learn more.](#)

Winners will be announced in December.

[Sweeney Treatment Enhancements Project](#)



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Water Art Contest!

“What Does Water Mean to You?”

**K-12 students in New Hanover County,
submit your original artwork! Use the QR
code to the right, or email
Communications@CFPUA.org**



CFPUA Director Named to AMWA Board



CFPUA's Executive Director Kenneth Waldroup, P.E., has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), a leading water industry organization.

Mr. Waldroup was [elected to join the 25-member AMWA Board](#) in a vote across the association's membership. His term will run for four years.

"I am honored to be chosen by my water utility peers to join the AMWA Board," Mr. Waldroup said. "I look forward to sharing insights gained during my years with CFPUA in advocating for public utility customers across the country."

AMWA works with leadership of the nation's largest public water systems to develop policy recommendations to support safe, affordable, and sustainable drinking water in America.

In 2022, CFPUA won [AMWA's Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance](#), which honors member water systems that exhibit high levels of performance in the [Ten Attributes of Effectively Managed Water Sector Utilities](#), a set of industry-wide standards for water and wastewater services providers.

Mr. Waldroup has been Executive Director of CFPUA since June 2021, prior to which he was an assistant director at the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department (Raleigh Water). He has more than 30 years' experience in the water and wastewater industry.

AMWA's new Board will convene in October during the AMWA Executive Management Conference in Miami, at which time it will select officers for the coming year.

It's Fall, Y'all! 🍁 Time to Adjust Your Sprinklers



Cooler weather means lawns need less water! If your home or business has automatic sprinklers, remember to dial back your irrigation times to save water and money.

CFPUA's Bernice Johnson Among 2024's "Women to Watch"



Bernice (center, in blue) with her family and CFPUA coworkers at WILMA's Women to Watch Awards.

We were thrilled to learn that CFPUA Senior Project Manager Bernice Johnson won this year's [WILMA's Women to Watch Public Sector Award!](#)

Bernice is the embodiment of excellence within our organization, and we appreciate WILMA's recognition of her accomplishments, outstanding leadership, and continued contributions to our community. She has been with CFPUA since we opened our doors in 2008, prior to which she served as a project manager for New Hanover County.

Bernice is deeply passionate about public service, as evidenced not only by her work at CFPUA but also by her many leadership roles in community organizations. Bernice serves as an Ambassador for the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., the Junior League of Wilmington, and the Wilmington chapter of Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Most recently, she has been appointed to the Azalea Festival Board of Directors.

Congratulations, Bernice, on this well-deserved honor!

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.



Alan Wikander
Facilities Technician

Birthplace: *Toms River, New Jersey*

Department/Division: *Centralized Maintenance*

Position: *Facilities Technician*

Length of employment: *11 months*

Briefly describe your typical day at work: *I do all sorts of things that fall into the gaps at sites that do not have a full-time Maintenance Technician or Electrician, like changing lightbulbs or the air filters. Sometimes you can find me fixing a sink at [235 Government Center Drive](#), CFPUA's headquarters, or at the Laboratory jumpstarting a car.*

What do you enjoy most about your job? *I enjoy meeting all of the employees and learning what they do. I never imagined there being so many different positions at the water authority! Did you know we have Lab Technicians who test the water every day? They go to Pump Stations and well sites and make sure CFPUA's water is safe to drink.*

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA? *I am learning as much as I can about what we do as an organization. I want to know every aspect of the water treatment process so I can be an asset to CFPUA!*

What advice would you give to recent new hires? *My advice is to be a sponge. No matter what your job is, try to see what other folks do, ask A LOT of questions, and pay close attention to your surroundings. I told one of my younger coworkers, try and get as much information as possible on our facilities, such as the new Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant that CFPUA is building. It will make him a great asset for years to come.*

What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general? *Customers should know that most CFPUA employees are also CFPUA customers. We understand their concerns because they are our concerns, too.*

What do you like to do when you're not at work? *When I am not at work, I love to spend time with my dog, "Duke," and my wife at the beach.*

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