

December 2008

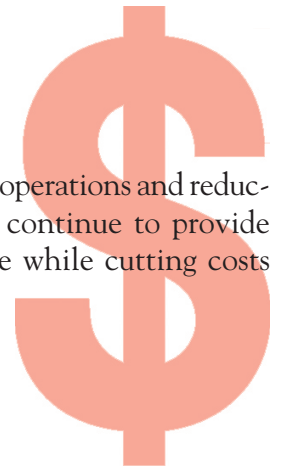
City of Atlanta Wrestles With Difficult Economy

To meet projected budget shortfalls of \$50-\$60 million, Mayor Shirley Franklin has instituted half-day furloughs for many City employees. Beginning this month, employees who fall under the City's general fund (every department except Aviation and Watershed Management) will work 36 hours a week rather than 40, resulting in a 10 percent pay reduction per worker. The Mayor hopes the furloughs, coupled with a City-wide hiring freeze and monies from the City's contingency fund, will reduce estimated budget shortfalls by \$13 to \$18 million.

Mayor Franklin is working with Chief Operating Officer Greg Giornelli to find ways to make up the remaining shortfall. Service cuts and lay-offs may be implemented.

DWM is looking at options for reducing its projected \$50 million budget shortfall. Some of

these include streamlining operations and reducing positions. DWM will continue to provide efficient, courteous service while cutting costs wherever possible.



Track DWM's Budget Online

Go to www.atlantawatershed.org and click on DWM's Financial Picture for information about projected and actual water/sewer revenues. Information will be updated each month, so visit our website often to stay up to date.

Atlanta Celebrates CSO Consent Decree Completion

Mayor Shirley Franklin joined Department of Watershed Management officials, environmental groups, City staff and contractors last night to celebrate the opening of the West CSO Tunnel and the completion of the CSO Consent Decree. "This project was finished on time and under budget," Mayor Franklin noted. "That's something you just don't hear nowadays."

The 8.6-mile-long, \$257 million tunnel, with an associated pump station and treatment facility, was one of the key projects in the Consent Decree Program, which came in at \$759 million, about 25 percent less than its original \$1.1 billion estimated price tag. The tunnel, which can store 177 million gallons of combined sewage and stormwater, will dramatically reduce overflows in the 10 percent of Atlanta's sewer system that remains combined.

Commissioner Rob Hunter and Deputy Commissioner George Barnes, who oversees the Consent Decree programs, praised City staff and contractors who worked tirelessly to finish the tunnel project by its November 2008 deadline.

"We need to take a moment and celebrate this achievement," Commissioner Hunter said. "And then, it's back to work." The City still must complete the First Amended Consent Decree, which governs sanitary sewer overflows and has a 2014 deadline.



Important Numbers to Remember
Customer Service: 404-658-6500
Customer Service Fax: 404-658-6637
Customer Service E-mail: watershedhelp@atlwater.com

over→

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City of Atlanta

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City Council

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Carla Smith

Kwanza Hall

Ivory Lee Young, Jr.

Cleta Winslow

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Howard Shook

Clair Muller

Felicia Moore

C.T. Martin

Jim Maddox

Joyce Sheperd

Cesar C. Mitchell

Mary Norwood

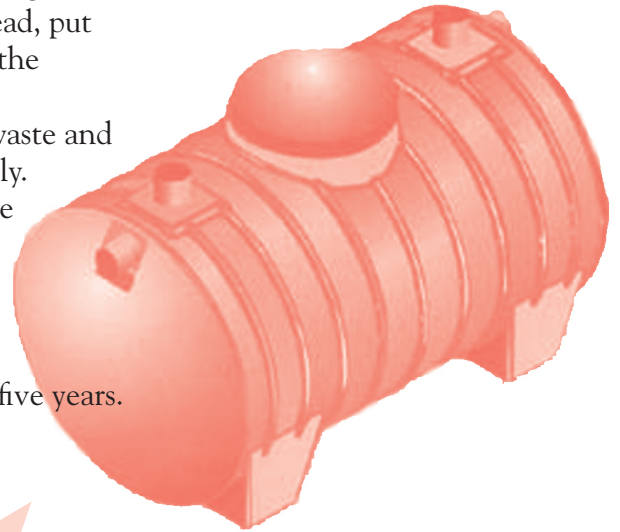
H. Lamar Willis

Septic Tank Maintenance

Some of Atlanta’s water customers have septic tanks rather than sewer connections. Making sure septic tanks function properly requires a degree of maintenance on the part of the homeowner. Here are some tips for keeping your septic tank in good working order:

- Don’t pour grease, oils, dairy products, chocolate or bits of food down the kitchen drain. These food items can cause blockages and back-ups – both in septic systems and your home’s plumbing. Instead, compost food scraps rather than using a garbage disposal. Wipe greasy dishes and pans with a paper towel before washing them. After it has cooled, scrape leftover grease into a piece of tin-foil, fold it over, then dispose of it in your garbage can.
- Don’t put floor sweepings, floss, sanitary napkins, cat litter or food products (such as coffee grounds or cigarette butts) in your toilet. They can cause blockages and back-ups. Instead, put these items in the garbage.
- Flush human waste and toilet paper only.
- As a preventive measure, have your septic system inspected and pumped every five years.

Note: if your home is located within _____ feet of a sanitary sewer line, you are required to hook into the line.



Water Savers

“I use antiseptic hand gel after using the bathroom instead of washing at the sink. I also keep a bucket in the kitchen sink [to catch rinse water for use outside]. It’s okay to use water with some soap in it on plants; soapy water helps keep mosquitoes away.”

Lillian Tompkins
Grant Park

“My AC condensate is pumped directly into the swimming pool to replace the water that evaporates. When rain overfills the pool, I pump the excess into rain barrels to use for watering plants. In winter, I pump the rain water that collects on the pool cover into the same rain barrels.”

Dave Cook
South Fulton

“When washing dishes, put the stopper in the sink and collect the wash water. Then, wash all your dishes with that water, rather than allowing the faucet to run while you wash.”

Al Shams
Sandy Springs

