



PSD Members Brian Fedorick and Pete Schuelke earn statewide honors

Two members of the Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD) team have earned statewide honors as outstanding utility professionals. PSD Project Manager Pete Schuelke earned the Kelly A. Hunsucker System Protection Award from the South Carolina American Water Works Association. PSD

Recycled Water Plant Supervisor Brian Fedorick earned the Wastewater Operator of the Year Award from the Water Environment Association of South Carolina. The awards were announced this month at the South Carolina Environmental Conference.

Schuelke joined the PSD in 2017 after completing his service in the United States Army, which included multiple tours of duty during the War in Afghanistan. His work for the PSD has involved oversight of backflow prevention and water system connections. “Pete really enjoys evaluating different sites, problem solving, and keeping our residents safe in the process,” said PSD Water Quality Laboratory Supervisor Sarah Hickman, who nominated her colleagues for the awards. Schuelke holds multiple water operator licenses, including backflow prevention certification from the state. He recently updated the utility’s cross-connection control standard operating procedures.

Fedorick began work for the PSD in 2019 after holding private-sector positions in water quality laboratory and wastewater treatment operations. He has improved efficiency at the PSD’s Recycled Water Plant by streamlining process-control testing, including introducing new data management programs. Fedorick holds multiple wastewater treatment licenses as well as a Master’s degree in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. His work at the PSD has focused on regulatory compliance and cost savings, including implementing aeration in treated effluent retention lagoons and optimizing aeration in the wastewater treatment plant, as well as helping commercial customers understand and manage grease trap program requirements.

“Pete Schuelke and Brian Fedorick really embody the teamwork spirit at the PSD,” said PSD General Manager Pete Nardi. “It is great to see their peers here in South Carolina recognize their efforts with these awards, which reflect the tremendous impact and value that water and wastewater professionals provide each and every day in our community.”

Remembering Frank Drehwing



Longtime Hilton Head Public Service District Commissioner Frank J. Drehwing, 88, of Hilton Head Island S.C., passed away on February 4, 2023, peacefully at the home he loved in the Lowcountry, surrounded by family.

Drehwing, an AWWA Lifetime Member, served on the Hilton Head PSD Commission for 17 years, until November 2022.

A water/wastewater engineer, Frank’s support

and guidance was key to many important projects for the PSD, including the construction of its Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Facility in 2009 and Hilton Head Island's first-ever Aquifer Storage & Recovery well in 2011. Frank helped author several presentations about the PSD's long-range water supply planning that were given at AWWA ACE and WEFTEC.

Frank was predeceased by his brother Carl (Chuck), his father Carl, his mother Antoinette and his brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Martin and Veronica Rowland.

He is survived by his treasured wife Eileen (Rowland), his beloved daughter Nancy (Drehwing Edwards) Cronin and husband John, his adored granddaughter Kylie Edwards, his step-grandchildren Jessica, Erin and Seth, and nieces and nephews on both the Drehwing side (Karen, Kristine, Karl, Kyle, Michael, Kurt, Kristopher, Douglas) and Rowland side (Tara, Kevin, Christine and Christopher) of the family, all of whom Frank was proud of and always looked forward to seeing news of the latest new babies in the family.

A Funeral Mass was held at St. Francis by the Sea on Hilton Head Island on March 20.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to Hospice Care of the Lowcountry, or the MDS Foundation.

View the full obituary by clicking the link below.

[View
Obituary](#)

It's Time For A Sprinkler Spruce Up!

Spring means it's time for a Sprinkler Spruce Up!

Join our WaterSense Partner in following these steps to make sure your irrigation system is in top shape before the summer starts:

1. **Inspect:** Check for broken or damaged sprinkler heads to avoid wasting water.
2. **Connect:** Fix any breaks

or leaks in your landscape or reach out to an irrigation professional for advice.

3. **Direct:** No need to water the sidewalk! If you see your sprinkler pointed towards the sidewalk or the driveway, aim it towards the landscape.
4. **Select:** A WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller adjusts watering schedules based on local weather and landscape conditions.
5. **Schedule:** Check that your irrigation controller is programmed correctly. If it's a clock timer, make sure it is not programmed to water too often



Learn more from
WaterSense



PFAS and the Hilton Head PSD Drinking Water Supply

Chemical compounds are manufactured to make life easier, better, or safer. But time and information sometimes reveal unintended consequences, as exemplified by PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). Over the last 70 years, these chemicals have been manufactured and used around the world to enhance many everyday products. They have been used to fight fires and recover oil, and to produce medical equipment, food packaging, cleaning products, nonstick cookware, stain- and water-resistant coatings, paints, inks and cosmetics.

Today, their use has led to a serious challenge for public water suppliers. PFAS are mobile, persistent and may have adverse health effects at very low concentrations. Now phased out in the United States, PFOA and PFOS were among the first PFAS produced and remain the most well-understood and commonly detected PFAS.

These and other legacy PFAS that are no longer used have already entered the environment at industrial sites, landfills, and at sites where firefighting foams were applied. While there are hundreds of banned PFAS, there are thousands more in existence, and more than 600 used commercially in the United States.

On March 14, 2023, the EPA announced the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX Chemicals), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). The proposed PFAS NPDWR does not require any actions until it is finalized. EPA anticipates finalizing the regulation by the end of 2023.

Here's what you need to know about PFAS and the PSD's Water Supply:

1. The PSD's drinking water meets or exceeds all current state and federal water quality regulations, including the drinking water the PSD purchases on a wholesale basis from the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority.
2. Approximately 60% of the PSD's drinking water is provided by its Reverse Osmosis Drinking Water Treatment Plant. Reverse Osmosis, or RO, is among the leading barrier technologies to safeguard against PFAS contamination of drinking water.
3. There are no known PFAS-related environmental pollution sites within the PSD's service area.
4. None of the six PFAS compounds proposed to be regulated have been detected in the PSD's groundwater wells, according to recent monitoring.
5. Two of the six compounds have been detected in the wholesale water the PSD purchases from the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority; however, the level of those two compounds is below the EPA's proposed maximum contaminant level, according to the most recent monitoring.

6. The PSD monitors for more than 35 types of PFAS. The most recent monitoring revealed one PFAS compound in one sample from one PSD groundwater well. The compound is not among the proposed compounds to be regulated at this time.
7. The PSD will continue to monitor for PFAS, including as part of the U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule program, which the PSD has participated in for many years.
8. The PSD will continue to implement any and all PFAS barrier technologies available to it. To that end, the PSD is seeking a grant from the state government to expand the capacity of our Reverse Osmosis plant in order to provide an even greater percentage of our water supply from the plant.
9. The PSD will continue to work with our wholesale water provider, the Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority, to ensure it provides wholesale water that remains in compliance.

IT'S NATIONAL GARDENING DAY!

INCORPORATE NATIVE PLANTS
INTO YOUR GARDEN!



April 14 is National Gardening Day!

Have you incorporated native plants into your garden yet?

Native plants thrive on their own: They require much less watering and less maintenance in general.

Why?

Because they're adapted to your local soil and climate conditions.

Native plants also help the environment by providing natural habitats in your lawn – helping birds, pollinators and other animals and insects thrive.

From the National Audubon Society:

Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. By creating a native plant garden, each patch of habitat becomes part of a collective effort to nurture and sustain the living landscape for birds and other animals.

If you're a bird lover, then using native plants in your landscape has even more benefits for you: The plants

will help attract more birds to your yard. Birds depend on native plants to survive. And we don't just mean hummingbirds who feed on nectar from flowers – most species of birds rely on insects for their diets. Without native plants, there aren't enough insects for birds to feed on.

And, of course, there are the pollinators – the adorable hummingbirds, bees, butterflies, moths, and even bats! Incorporating native florals into your landscape turns your yard into a pollinator's paradise. So in turn, you don't just get to enjoy the beauty these plants, insects and birds bring to your yard or garden, but you're helping the environment in a big way – including helping any nearby farmers or anyone nearby with a food garden.

Learn what to plant

Ready to get started? If you want to find native plants to Hilton Head Island and see what kinds of birds the plants may attract, check out the [National Audubon Society's online database](#).

You can also check out our [WaterSense partner's website](#) for more



information on native plants.

Or click the button below to learn more from the South Carolina Native Plant Society.

SC Native Plant
Society



It's RBC Heritage Time!

If you love golfing on Hilton Head, did you know our Recycled Water Program helps keep courses green?

It's one of the most exciting times of year on Hilton Head Island this week: The RBC Heritage Presented By Boeing!

If you're a golf lover on Hilton Head, then you should know that the PSD's Recycled Water Program helps keep several of the island's golf courses green!

This recycled water plays a vital role in the Hilton Head Island's economy and ecology by providing irrigation water for 12 golf courses — helping us save one of our most precious natural resources (and keep up our drinking water supply).

Learn more about the program on our website by clicking the button below.

Visit Our
Website



Save the date: Earth Day is April 22.

There are several ways you can celebrate Earth Day — and help save our beautiful planet:

- Plant a tree! Or add some native plants to your landscape or garden.
- Make a plan for your household to save water! This could include aiming for shorter showers (5 minutes), turning off the tap when brushing your teeth, and only running full loads in the washer and dishwasher.
- Spend the day doing a Sprinkler Spruce Up! [Learn more from WaterSense here.](#)
- Check your home for leaks! The average household's leaks can account for nearly

10,000 gallons of water wasted every year.

Upgrade your fixtures to the WaterSense label. [View WaterSense products here.](#)

Save Water. Save the Planet.

**Please don't flush
(or throw away)
leftover medications.**



**Reminder: Please don't flush
unused prescription medications
(or throw them in the trash).**



**Properly dispose of unused meds in one of
Beaufort County's Drop-Off Boxes**
Learn more at hhpsd.com/what-not-to-flush

**Improper disposal can pollute local
waterways.**

**Properly dispose of unused
medications in one of Beaufort
County's drop-off boxes.**

**Learn more on our [What Not To
Flush webpage.](#)**

Thank You, Plumbers!

**April 25 is "National Hug a
Plumber Day."**

**While your favorite
neighborhood plumber may
not want an actual hug, it's
still a great time to show
them some appreciation!**

**Many plumbers have saved
the day – and have probably
helped you save water (and
a mess!)**

**It takes great expertise to
really know what goes on in
those mazes of pipes and
how to keep them all running like clockwork.**

So to all of the plumbers out there: We appreciate you!

National "Hug A Plumber" Day

Show your local plumber some
appreciation today!



Save The Date:

Drinking Water Week is May 7-13.



**Drinking
Water
Week 2023**
May 7-13, 2023

For more than 40 years the American Water Works Association and its members have used Drinking Water Week as a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

This year's recognition is May 7-13, 2023.

Drinking Water Week is an easy way to educate the public, connect with the community and promote employee morale.

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Community Happenings



Cornhole for Charity — May 13

The Hilton Head Kiwanis Club has teamed up with Lincoln & South Brewing Company for a new event that will benefit First Tee of the Lowcountry: Cornhole for Charity!

This fun, Spring charity event will be held from 2 – 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at Lincoln & South, 138 Island Drive on Hilton Head.

Register to sponsor or play on the [Hilton Head Kiwanis website](#).

Hilton Head PSD Affiliations

We are proud to partner with the following organizations.



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