## HiltonHead PSD NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

## Master Sewer effort rolling on

The Master Sewer Plan initiative continues to move forward. The initiative is a partnership among Hilton Head PSD, the Town of Hilton Head Island and the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry. The Town is funding approximately \$10 million in sewer collector main installations on scores of streets in the PSD service area.

The PSD is performing the sewer main construction and getting customers connected to the new sewer system. The PSD also has constructed two regional sewer lift stations necessary to accommodate all of the new mains, at a cost of \$1.5 million, using a low-interest South Carolina Clean Water Revolving Fund loan. The Community Foundation of the Lowcountry already has raised about \$2 million of its \$3 million campaign goal for Project SAFE (Sewer Access for Everyone), the foundation's charitable fund that covers sewer connection costs for low- to moderate-income homeowners.

Sewer main installations have taken place in the Oakview, Marshland, and Dillon Road areas, and will be moving on to the Squire Pope, Wild Horse, and Mitchelville areas in the coming months. Affected owners are directly notified about projects by the PSD.

If you have a question about connecting your property to the PSD's public sewer system, please contact us at info@hhpsd.com or (843) 681-5525.



## **PSD** tap water passes the test

The tap water provided to you by Hilton Head PSD in 2017 once again met or exceeded all state and federal water quality tests, independent labs and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) have confirmed. The PSD's Water Quality Report can be found under "Publications" at hhpsd.com. The full link to the report is: www.hhpsd.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Hilton-Head-PSD-2017-Water-Quality-Report.pdf.

Customers also can receive a copy of the report by visiting the PSD Water Resource Center at 21 Oak Park Drive, off Mathews Drive, or by calling (843) 681-5525 or emailing info@hhpsd.com.

## New Customer Portal monitors water consumption

Do you know how much you use in a day? Are you using water only when intended?

Hilton Head PSD is excited to offer a free online tool to let you view your water consumption history and set alerts to receive a text or e-mail when your consumption exceeds the target amount you set.

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

The PSD uses Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). The system equips each water meter with a "smart point" that communicates usage in regular intervals and can be shared with customers via our online Customer Portal.

The portal provides you with a graph of your consumption and lets you determine a threshold for receiving an alert. It's a great way to make sure you're using water efficiently and provides peace of mind that you're only using water when you want.

## **CUSTOMER PORTAL SIGN-UP**

To sign up, visit www.hhpsd.com and click on the Customer Portal button on the homepage.

Here's what you'll need to get started:

- Your cell phone
- Your email address
- Your PSD account number
- Your name exactly as it appears on your PSD bill

# Please be mindful of our island's irrigation laws

Now that spring has sprung, the temptation to over-water your lawn might be overwhelming. Consider this. More than 50 percent of potable water usage in the Hilton Head Public Service District service area is from irrigation — primarily residential. The District has developed innovative ways to conserve water while supporting the economy through our recycled water program. However, we could use your help. It's simple. Follow the rules.

*The Town of Hilton Head Island's Municipal Code Sec.* 17-10-211: Exterior landscape irrigation is hereby limited to the following days for all customers within the town limits, as follows:

1. Detached, single-family residential with even-numbered address: Exterior landscape irrigation is permitted for customers having an even-numbered address on Tuesdays and Saturdays only.

2. Detached, single-family residential with odd-numbered address: Exterior landscape irrigation is permitted for customers having an odd-numbered address on Wednesdays and Sundays only.

3. Commercial/office/institutional hotels and motels on a separately platted lot of record: Exterior landscape irrigation is permitted for customers on Mondays and Thursdays only.

4. Common areas and locations having no street address, box number or rural route number: Exterior landscape irrigation is permitted for customers on Mondays and Thursdays only.

Town of Hilton Head Island Municipal Code Sec. 17-10-313: Rain sensors required in new exterior landscape irrigation systems. Any customer who installs a new exterior landscape irrigation system, in whole or in part after March 16, 1992, shall install a rain sensor on that irrigation system.

Hilton Head PSD is here to help you with any questions or concerns you have about water efficiency. To contact us, simply send us an email at info@hhpsd.com, or call our Customer Service Center at (843) 681-5525.

## **RESPONSIBLE IRRIGATION**

Here are some helpful pointers from Clemson University Extension Service:

• Design and maintain a yard that can thrive on rainfall alone

• Most established trees and shrubs need watering only during times of drought.

• Water your lawn and other plants only when they show signs of stress. Check leaves for curling, smaller than usual size, dropping off, wilting or limpness, yellow or brown edges. For lawns, look for increased brittleness (visible footprints that last for a while), a blue-green hue, browning or yellowing, thinning, or increased weed growth.

• Calibrate your sprinklers to apply  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch of water per application.

• Keep lawns cut high to encourage a deeper, more drought and pest tolerant root system and shades out weeds. Cut no more than one-third the height of grass blades with each mowing.

• Put a rain gauge in your yard to track rainfall to avoid unnecessary watering.

• Required for post-1992 irrigation installations: Connect an automatic rain shut-off device to your sprinkler system's timer. Set the device to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch so it will override your system's timer when enough rain has fallen. Replace backup batteries each year before the rainy season. Test it to see if the shut-off device is working properly.

• Design or modify your sprinkler system to water lawn areas separately from plantings that need less water.

• Use a drip or micro-spray irrigation system to more efficiently water plant and flower beds.

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## Hilton Head PSD earns Facility Excellence Award

The Hilton Head Public Service District (PSD) Recycled Water Plant on Oak Park Drive was recently presented with the Facility Excellence Award recognizing excellence in environmental protection and regulatory compliance by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. Every year the PSD's Recycled Water Plant turns more than 1 billion gallons of wastewater into usable water with zero discharge to area waterways.



21 OAK PARK DRIVE HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC 29926 (843) 681-5525 hhpsd.com

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