

PSD earns its 3rd WaterSense award

The PSD has earned the 2024 Excellence in Education and Outreach Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense program. The PSD earned the award for its efforts to inform and educate customers about water efficiency and environmental sustainability programs. This is the PSD's third EPA WaterSense Excellence Award.

"With a continuous stream of water conservation messaging, Hilton Head PSD earned its third WaterSense Award for Excellence in Education and Outreach," the EPA said in a statement. "To reach a larger audience, Hilton Head PSD partners with the Clemson University Extension Service to provide education about responsible lawn care and landscaping through social media, newsletters, and their website at www.hhpsd.com."

The PSD promotes a variety of WaterSense outreach campaigns, including encouraging customers to take the I'm for Water Pledge at the beginning of the year; helping homeowners identify



leaks during Fix a Leak Week; and getting those with irrigation systems to conduct a Sprinkler Spruce-Up. The PSD suggests improvements to Hilton Head's many swimming pools by sharing WaterSense's pool efficiency resources in the summer, and it encourages customers to look for the WaterSense label on fixtures at the end of the year through its Tis the Season for Savings campaign.

"Congratulations to our customers, who truly care for our most precious natural resource — water," said PSD General Manager Pete Nardi. "Earning this national recognition from the EPA

is a demonstration of the importance that Hilton Head Island places on water resource stewardship and our delicate island environment."

The PSD actively promotes Clemson University Cooperative Extension's "Carolina Yards" program, which teaches sustainable landscape management practices. It also informs customers about the local irrigation and rain-sensor ordinance on Hilton Head Island that restricts irrigation to no more than two days a week at all times and requires working rain sensors on all irrigation systems. WaterSense campaigns such as Fix a Leak Week and Shower Better are highlighted in PSD communications. The PSD uses communication tools such as its e-newsletter, The Liquid Letter, social media, and bill-insert newsletters to inform and educate customers, among other outreach efforts. The PSD is assisted in its promotional outreach by Bragg Media Marketing and its founder, Heather Bragg.

Another honor for Water Quality Lab



Under the supervision of Sarah Hickman, the PSD Water Quality Laboratory once again has been recognized by the state as a "Laboratory of Excellence."

Hilton Head PSD's Water Quality Laboratory has once again been recognized as a Laboratory of Excellence as part of its annual certification by the S.C. Department of Environmental Services. The independent agency that conducts the certification recognized the PSD lab "achieving 100% acceptable data" in a group of 380 participating labs, according to a statement from the independent agency. "This achievement is a demonstration of the superior quality of the laboratory," according to the statement. The PSD Water Quality Laboratory conducts thousands of tests annually on the quality of our tap water and treated recycled water. It is led by Water Quality Supervisor Sarah Hickman.

"The PSD's commitment to providing clean drinking water to our customers and protecting and enhancing the island's ecosystems through our recycled water program is aided by and demonstrated through continuous scientific analyses," said PSD General Manager Pete Nardi. "The Laboratory of Excellence recognition for our PSD Water Quality Laboratory under Sarah Hickman's outstanding guidance confirms our dedication to achieving our mission."

Save water & look good: Carolina Yards

Clemson Extension's Carolina Yards program helps residents create healthy, watershed-friendly landscapes. Use simple and effective gardening methods to help you achieve a low-maintenance yard that works with nature, rather than against it.

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PSD GIVES PRESENTATION AT THE CYPRESS



PSD Commission Vice Chair Jerry Cutrer and General Manager Pete Nardi gave a presentation on the PSD and its water resources at The Cypress on Aug. 22. The discussion included the PSD's governance, its sources of water, treatment methods, and the future of water on our island.

The PSD's presentation on water resources also was a chance for current and former members of the PSD Commission to gather.



From left are PSD General Manager Pete Nardi, PSD Commission Vice Chair Jerry Cutrer, Rosemary Kratz, wife of former PSD Commissioner Gary Kratz, and former PSD Commissioner John Geisler.

Please keep meds out of water system

Don't flush them & don't toss them in the trash

Please don't flush unused prescription medications! Flushing meds down the toilet can pollute our local waterways. You should NOT throw these prescriptions in a trash can, either. Instead, properly dispose of any unused medications in one of Beaufort County's drop-off boxes. You can find those sites on our "What Not to Flush" page located in the "Conservation" menu at hhpsd.com.



HURRICANE SEASON RUNS THROUGH NOV. 30 VISIT THE PSD'S ONLINE HURRICANE RESOURCE CENTER

Find out essential information for the season at the PSD's online Hurricane Resource Center:

- How to preserve water
- How to purify stored water
- How to protect your water heater
- How to turn off your water meter
- and much more ...



hhpsd.com/hurricane-preparedness

Finding and Fixing Leaks

- Check for toilet leaks by placing a few drops of food coloring in the tank; wait 10 minutes before flushing. If dye shows up in your toilet bowl, you have a leak.
- Twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator to save water without a noticeable difference in flow.
- Replace old and worn toilet flappers to stop leaks.

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