

NEWSLINE

ELECTRICITY • WATER • NATURAL GAS • WASTEWATER • TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Fort Valley

Utility Commission

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500 Anthoine Street

Fort Valley, Georgia 31030

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CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Commissioners

Alre' Horton, *Chairman*

Rose Marie Thompson

Robert Dickey, IV

Keytrick Jones

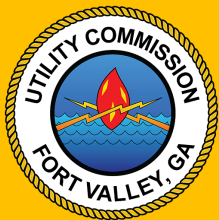
Stephen Lindsey

Ned Watson

Darrel West

Mayor Jeffery Lundy

*The Commission meets the second
Monday of each month at
6:00 p.m.*



July 2024

Editor: Martha McAfee

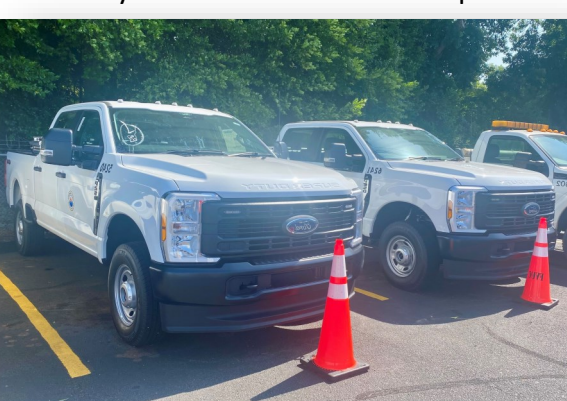
Commission Takes Steps Towards Efficiency

The Commission has implemented decisions designed to bring more efficiency to overall operations. This includes the installation of a screw press at the wastewater plant and the transitioning to a lease agreement for fleet maintenance and acquisition of some vehicles.

A screw press is a type of dewatering equipment used in wastewater treatment facilities to separate liquids from solids. They are highly effective at dewatering sludge and other solid-liquid mixtures, leading to drier solids and clearer effluent.

They consume less energy compared to other dewatering technologies like centrifuges or belt presses, resulting in lower operational costs. Screw presses can also operate continuously, which enhances the efficiency and consistency of the dewatering process plus these machines generally have fewer moving parts, which reduces the frequency and cost of maintenance. By producing drier solids, screw presses reduce the volume and weight of waste that needs to be transported and disposed of, leading to cost savings. The drier sludge produced by screw presses can help minimize odors often associated with wastewater treatment processes and the dewatering process helps in reducing the environmental impact of wastewater treatment, including reducing the potential for water pollution.

The decision to transition to leasing certain vehicles offers several efficiencies and advantages. One is the ability to more easily budget and manage vehicle expenses and to have vehicles with the latest safety advances and are more fuel efficient. The Commission's average vehicle is currently 14 years old and the newer vehicles will have major expenses covered under warranty which can reduce out of pocket expenses and will lower depreciation expenses.



Converting to leasing certain vehicles will also simplify fleet management, providing a consistent, and more standardized approach to vehicle maintenance and replacement.

We are excited about these steps and look forward to reaping the benefits!



From the General Manager's Desk...



Clay Walker
General Manager

County-wide Sewer Infrastructure Plan

The Fort Valley Utility Commission has partnered with the Peach County Development Authority as well as representatives of Peach County and the cities of Fort Valley and Byron and began a collaborative effort to develop a joint plan to address the future sewer needs of the entire county.

The initiative, which began earlier this year, aims to create a comprehensive sewer infrastructure plan that will serve residents and businesses across Peach County. This cooperative endeavor marks a significant step forward in regional planning and resource management, promising benefits for the local communities.

Economic Development and Community Growth

One of the primary motivations behind this joint planning is the potential for economic development. By strategically expanding our sewer infrastructure, the participating entities hope to attract new businesses, industries, and residential development to the area. Improved sewer systems are a critical factor for many companies when considering relocation or expansion, making this process a cornerstone for future economic growth.

This collaboration should help facilitate numerous opportunities for Peach County. A reliable and efficient sewer system is fundamental for any growing community, and by working together, we are ensuring that our county is well-positioned to attract and support new businesses and homes.

Comprehensive Planning for Sustainable Development

The joint planning involves an assessment of the current sewer infrastructure, identifying areas in need of immediate attention, and projecting future demands based on expected growth and development. This forward-thinking approach will not only identify current deficiencies but also lay the groundwork for sustainable development in the years to come.

Strategic planning is key. We are looking at this project from both a short-term and a long-term perspective. Our goal is to create an infrastructure footprint that will meet the needs of our residents and businesses today and for decades to come. This kind of planning is essential for sustainable growth and community wellbeing.

Enhanced Services and Environmental Impact

Good sewer service enhances overall quality of life. We need sewer systems that reduce the risk of environmental contamination and improve public health by efficiently managing waste. Environmental benefits and considerations are always in the forefront as we continue to be cognizant of contributing to cleaner water sources and healthier ecosystems. Our combined efforts will ensure that we deliver the best possible outcomes for our communities.

Looking Ahead

The collaborative effort in assessing and planning for sewer needs throughout the county represents a significant investment in Peach County's future. By supporting each other and pooling expertise, Peach County, the cities of Byron and Fort Valley, along with the Fort Valley Utility Commission and the Peach County Development Authority are being good stewards of the limited funds that are available for infrastructure expansion and improvements.

"The collaborative effort in assessing and planning for sewer needs throughout the county represents a significant investment in Peach County's future."

Preparedness for Inclement Weather

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, the Fort Valley Utility Commission staff, as a part of normal operations, holds inclement weather preparation sessions. The sessions are designed to address predicted as well as unpredicted inclement weather events and its potential impacts on our services and residents.

Proactive Measures for Weather Preparedness

With the ever-changing weather patterns and the increasing frequency of severe weather events, the Commission strives to be proactive by taking measures to minimize the impact. Some of these measures include:

- 1. Infrastructure Reinforcement:** As funding permits, we are investing in strengthening our infrastructure to withstand extreme weather conditions. This includes replacing utility poles, securing electrical substations, and enhancing our water and wastewater treatment facilities.
- 2. Emergency Response Teams:** Our planning includes reviewing emergency response protocols and assigning staff to dedicated emergency response teams. These teams are on standby 24/7 to address any weather-related issues promptly and staff are trained to handle a variety of scenarios, from power outages to water supply interruptions.
- 3. Communication Systems:** We designate staff to coordinate information dissemination to our customers. In the event of severe weather, updates will be provided through multiple channels, including social media, local news outlets, and our official website.



Safety Tips for Residents

We urge all residents to take the following precautions to stay safe during inclement weather:

- **Stay Informed:** Keep an eye on weather forecasts and follow our communication channels for the latest updates.
- **Prepare an Emergency Kit:** Ensure you have essential supplies, such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, and a first aid kit.
- **Secure Your Property:** Take steps to secure your home and property, including trimming trees, securing outdoor items, and reinforcing windows and doors.

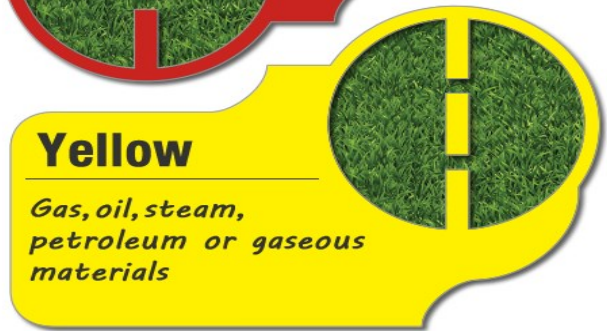
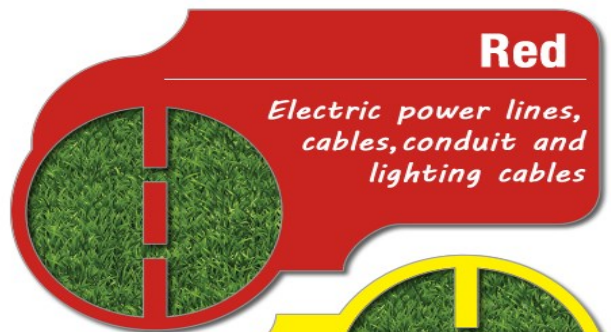
Follow Safety Guidelines: Adhere to safety guidelines provided by local authorities and the Fort Valley Utility Commission.

Commitment to Excellence

The Fort Valley Utility Commission remains dedicated to providing reliable and efficient services, even in the face of challenging weather conditions. Our proactive planning and preparedness efforts are designed to minimize disruptions and ensure the safety of our community.

Utility Markings

You arrive home and find numerous little flags or paint on the ground around your property and/or in the right of way. What is the significance?



Now you know!

REMINDER!!!! Georgia's "Move Over Law" is designed to enhance the safety of utility workers, as well as other emergency personnel, who are working on or near roadways. The law mandates specific actions for drivers to take to help protect these workers from traffic hazards. Here's how it protects utility workers:

Required Action by Drivers: The law requires drivers to move over one lane when approaching stationary utility service vehicles that have their flashing lights activated. If it is not safe or possible to move over, drivers must slow down to a speed that is reasonable and prudent and be prepared to stop if necessary.

Increased Visibility: The law helps ensure that drivers are more aware of utility workers by requiring flashing lights on utility vehicles, which increases visibility and alerts drivers to their presence.



Penalties for Non-Compliance: The law imposes fines and penalties on drivers who fail to comply, which serves as a deterrent and encourages adherence, further enhancing the safety of utility workers.

Public Awareness: The implementation of the Move Over Law raises public awareness about the presence of utility workers and the dangers they face, promoting more cautious driving behavior around work zones.

Protection During Repairs and Maintenance: Utility workers often perform repairs and maintenance in potentially hazardous locations on the roadside. The law provides an added layer of protection during these operations by creating a safer work environment.

The overall goal of the Move Over Law is to reduce accidents and injuries among utility workers and other roadside personnel by promoting safer driving practices. By adhering to this law, drivers contribute to a safer working environment for those who maintain and repair essential utility services. Help us keep them safe. Don't forget----**SLOW DOWN and MOVE OVER!**

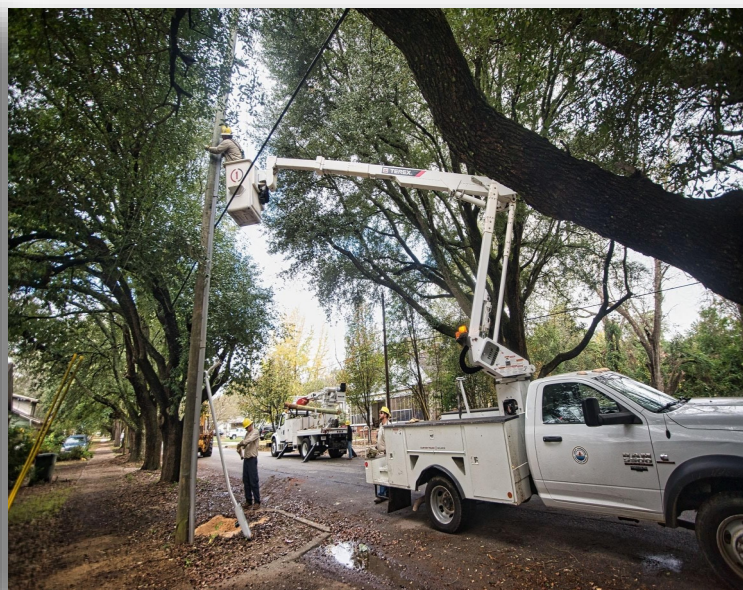


Photo by Danny Gilleland

An Important Message About Damage Prevention Prior to Excavating

This message is brought to you by **Fort Valley Utility Commission**. There are thousands of dig-in damage incidents in the United States every year. Striking an underground pipeline may lead to expensive fines, serious injury or death. Gas pipelines are built with safety and reliability as top priorities. Over the past 20 years, risk exposure has been rising through increased populations, energy consumption and pipeline miles. At the same time, the number of serious pipeline incidents involving death or injury has declined by 50%. Natural gas leaks do happen and may result in fire, explosion, and/or asphyxiation. Natural gas is a colorless, odorless gas; however, a chemical that smells like rotten eggs is added to help detect a possible leak. It's a bad smell. That's good!

Some of the signs of a gas leak include seeing bubbling water, hearing a hissing or blowing sound from a pipeline or appliance, dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area, or dirt or dust blowing from the ground, or the smell of rotten eggs.

If you smell gas, or just think you might have a gas leak:

- **Leave** the area immediately; **Do Not** congregate around natural gas facilities.
- **Call 478-825-7701 or 911** from a neighboring home or business
- **Never** turn on or off switches, open or close garage doors, use a flashlight or phone/cellphone in the presence of the gas smell, as these devices may be a source of ignition, causing an explosion.

Stay in a safe location until the Emergency Responder arrives and gives you clearance to return to the area.

Here are five easy steps to damage prevention:

Survey and Mark – Survey the proposed excavation area and mark the dig sites in white paint.

Call Before You Dig - 48 hours prior to digging, call 811 and get free staking of underground utility lines which helps reduce the chance of injury and unneeded expense. It is the law in Georgia.

Wait! Wait the required time to allow utility owners to locate and mark the lines.

Respect the Marks! Maintain visibility of the marks and safely follow them when digging.

Dig – Dig with care. Hand excavate within 24-inches of each side of the locate marks. If you plan to dig anywhere near a marked area – especially when using mechanized equipment – use a shovel and carefully hand dig to expose the lines.

If your equipment contacts a gas line:

- **Leave** the equipment; jumping clear and shuffling away – **DO NOT** turn off the engine.
- **Warn other and leave** the area quickly.
- **Do Not operate** any gas pipeline valves or stop the flow of gas or try to fold over plastic pipelines.
- Leave the **excavation open**.
- If gas is escaping the pipeline, **call 911**, then **Fort Valley Utility Commission at 478-825-7701**

If the line is nicked, scraped, gouged, dented or otherwise damaged but not leaking, call **Fort Valley Utility Commission at 478-825-7701**; these may appear to be minor but can lead to future leaks if not properly repaired.

Natural gas is America's most popular home heating fuel and is increasingly popular for use by homeowners, schools, businesses, factories and electric power-generation plants. Natural gas is efficient, clean, reliable, and a relative bargain compared to alternative energy sources. Natural gas flows through a network of underground main lines that serve approximately **3891** customers in our system. These main lines are typically 2-inch in diameter and branch into household service lines which are typically half-inch to three-quarter-inch in diameter and buried 12- to 18-inches below the surface. The service lines end at each customer's meter where gas is delivered.

This message is brought to you by Fort Valley Utility Commission as a part of our Public Awareness Program. For additional information regarding this message, call 478-825-7701.

Este es un Mensaje Importante Sobre Prevención de Daños Antes de Excavar

Este es un mensaje de **Fort Valley Utility Commission**. En los Estados Unidos ocurren cada año miles de incidentes por excavación de tierra. Golpear una tubería subterránea puede ocasionar costosas multas, heridas graves o la muerte; por lo cual, es de máxima prioridad fabricar los gasoductos con seguridad y confiabilidad. En los últimos 20 años, la exposición al riesgo ha estado sabiendo a través de aumento de la población, el consumo de energía y de tuberías millos. Al mismo tiempo, el número de incidentes serias que involucran las tuberías de gas que tiene que ver con muerte o heridas ha bajado el 50 por ciento. Fugas de gas natural corren y pueden resultar un incendio, una explosión y hasta la asfixia. El gas natural no tiene color ni olor; por eso, se agrega un químico que huele a huevos podridos para ayudar a detectar un posible fuga de gas. ¡Este es un mal olor que trae algo bueno!

Algunas señal de escape de gas pueden ser ver agua burbujeante, escuchar un silbido que viene del gasoducto, ver la vegetación descolorida o sin vida en donde debería haber un área verde, ver polvo que sopla del suelo o sentir el olor a huevos podridos. Si huele gas, o cree que puede haber una fuga de gas:

Salga del área inmediatamente. **NO** se quede cerca de las instalaciones de gas natural

• **Llame al 478-825-7701** o al **911** de la casa de un vecino o negocio.

Nunca encienda o apague interruptores, no abra ni cierre las puertas del garaje ni use una linterna, teléfono o celular en la presencia del olor a gas, ya que estos dispositivos pueden ser una fuente de ignición, causando una explosión.

Quédate en un lugar seguro hasta que llegue el servicio de Emergencia y le indique que puede regresar al área.

Estos son cinco pasos fáciles para prevenir daños:

- 1 **Inspeccione y Marque:** Inspeccione el área que planea excavar y marque con pintura blanca dónde vas a trabajar.
- 2 **Llame Antes de Excavar:** Llame 48 horas antes de excavar, a 811 para que le marquen las líneas subterráneas de servicios para reducir la posibilidad de daños o gastos que no sean necesarios. Es la ley en Georgia.
- 3 **Esperar!** Dele tiempo a los proveedores del servicio para localizar y marcar las líneas de gas
- 4 **Respete las Marcas:** Mantenga visibles las marcas y seguir con seguridad cuando empiezas excavar.
- 5 **Excavación** – Excave con cuidado. Excave a mano unas 18 pulgadas a cada lado de los sitios marcados. Si planea excavar cerca del área marcada, especialmente con un equipo mecánico, use una pala y cave con la mano cuidadosamente hasta que se vean las líneas de gas..

Si la máquina que está usando hace contacto con una línea de gas:

Déjela y aléjese del área. **NO** apague el motor

Adviértale a los demás y salga del área rápidamente

No encienda ninguna válvula de gas ni detenga su fluido, tampoco trate de doblar los conductos plásticos

Deje abierto el lugar de excavación

Si hay un escape de gas, **llame al 911**, después a **Fort Valley Utility Commission** al **478-825-7701**

Si la línea de gas tiene algún corte o está, raspada, arrancada, abollada o tiene algún otro daño pero no hay un escape, llame a **Fort Valley Utility Commission** al **478-825-7701**; estos daños parecen menores pero pueden ocasionar escapes en el futuro si no se reparan apropiadamente.

El gas natural es el combustible de calefacción de hogar más popular en América. El gas natural en cada vez es más popular con propietarios, escuelas, negocios, factorías y plantas eléctricas. El gas natural es más eficiente, limpio, fiable y una ganga relativa en comparación con otras formas de energía alternativa. El gas natural fluye a través de una red de líneas subterráneas que surten aproximadamente **3891** usuarios en nuestro sistema. Estas líneas principales suelen ser de 2 pulgadas de diámetro y se ramifican dentro de las líneas de servicio doméstico que suelen ser de media a tres cuartos de pulgada de diámetro, enterradas de 12 a 18 pulgadas bajo la superficie. Estas líneas de servicio terminan en cada uno de los meter de los usuarios donde se distribuye el gas.

Este es un mensaje de **Fort Valley Utility Commission** como parte de nuestro Programa de Concientización Pública. Para más información relacionada con este mensaje llame al **478-825-7701**.

From the
Archives

The Blizzard of '93 is one to be remembered for decades

On Saturday morning, March 13, 1993 at 7:30 a.m., the Commission's afterhour emergency telephone received its first call regarding the *Blizzard of 93*. The calls continued for the next 36 hours.

The storm brought snow, cold temperatures and gusty winds. The high velocity winds knocked trees across our distribution and secondary lines causing power loss to 500 customers. Our emergency plan of attack is de-energize all fallen conductors that may present some form of hazard, re-establish all distribution lines, and restore secondary lines to individual customers.

Services were restored to all but four customers by 1:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. The remaining restoration was completed the following day after an electrician had repaired the structures service.

All seven employees of the Electric Department were assisted by 10 employees from the Gas, Water, Wastewater and Meter Departments. The Commission expended 600

manhours during this storm period.

The Commission was also able to lend two crews to a neighboring utility on Monday afternoon and evening to assist them in their restoration.

The Commission would like to thank the local businesses who assisted in providing food for the crews.

COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

by M. P. Jackson, Commissioner

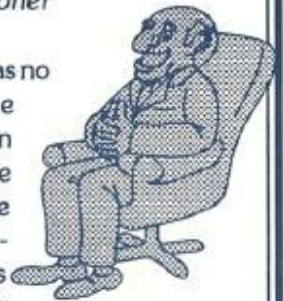
The Commissioners had hoped to always bring you good news from this corner, but circumstances sometimes force us to greet you with mixed news.

The good news is that although due to certain conditions, the water rates outside of the city had to be increased, our customers still enjoy the lowest utility rates in the area. Your Commission is pledged to do all in its power to continue this service to you at the lowest rates possible.

The bad news is that there are things that your Commission cannot control. There are mandates passed down from higher authority (EPA) that must be adhered to. Those mandates may or may not require additional funds. If additional funds are required, the Com-

mission has no recourse other than to increase rates. The Commissioners pledge that only necessary increases will be made and you will be informed as to when and why they are made. We feel that an informed customer will be an understanding and accepting customer.

President Clinton is advocating a broad energy tax that will hike prices for gas, oil, and electricity. If this is done, we will have no alternative but to pass the hike on to our customers, as gently as possible.



April 1993

CUSTOMER SERVICE

ORDER CENTER

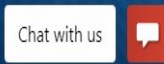


SIGN UP for e-bill! Call us at 478.825.7701 Option 3 or email customerservice@fvutil.com You can also sign up by logging into your account on-line. Visit www.fvutil.com



Lighting the way
to a brighter future

The Fort Valley Utility Commission is proud to provide electric, gas, water, wastewater, fiber optic, and wireless telecommunications to its customer service area in Central Georgia.



Check out our chat feature on our website!



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Ask Customer Service about our Main Street On-Bill Finance Program
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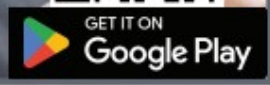
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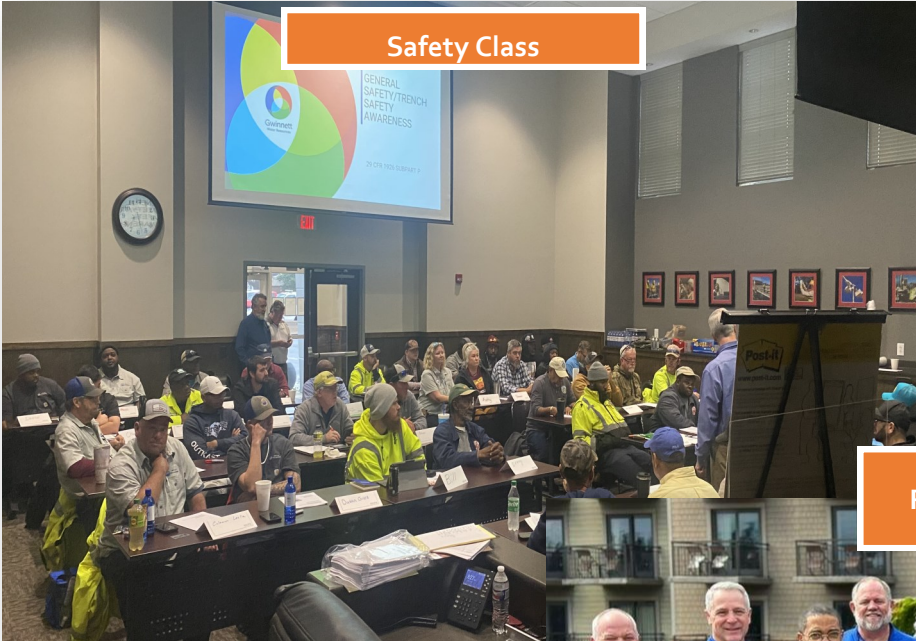
Waste Water Word Search

T A B D R G G R A V I T Y B E L T H L U X I C H
 K O T A U N F N Q B X M K S I U Y V A B Q B X P
 A L G E D B L Z C R J E A R J O B I F C F Z R Q
 M S W T N E U L F F E Y R A D N O C E S E I T V
 M S F G Y W L T Q B N K B I S Y Q B A U M W K X
 T D X O X Y N N N A M O U O H E A S L A E S J N
 L G A L L O N S P E R D A Y E T R F R N I N Q Z
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- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Clarifier | Biosolids | Bacteria | Alkalinity |
| Chlorination | Gallons Per Day | Secondary Effluent | Primary Effluent |
| Aeration Basins | Primary Sludge | Final Effluent | Raw Influent |
| Gravity Belt | Waste Water | Belt Press | Bar Screen |
| Influent | Effluent | Digester | Oxygen |
| Sewer | Grit | Rags | Bugs |

Team FVUC

Planning, Preparing, Training, Educating, Supporting - A part of what we do!



Congratulations to our 2023 Milestone Achievement Team Members!
We appreciate you!!

Alvin Wallace—20 Years
John Faherty—20 Years
Jammie Taylor—20 Years



NEWSLINE

Published by the
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P.O. Box 1529
Fort Valley GA 31030

Emergency Service

Nights and Weekends
478-825-5482

Office Hours

8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Monday - Friday

PETS SAFETY TIPS

Hot Weather Rules For Pets

- KEEP YOUR PET HYDRATED**
- DON'T LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR**
- KEEP PAWS AWAY FROM HOT PAVEMENT**
- KNOW SIGNS OF OVERHEATING**