

World Water Day is March 22nd

Did you know that more than **1.1 billion people** worldwide do not have access to safe water? And that every day, thousands of children die from water-related illnesses—preventable illnesses?

On **March 22nd**, people around the world will commemorate World Water Day, established in 1992 by the United Nations to raise awareness about the world water crisis.

You can make a difference in this international crisis by supporting Water Missions International, a local non-profit organization dedicated to providing clean drinking water around the world. Water Missions is holding several events during the month of March in honor of World Water Day.



Water for Life Art Exhibit

March 1- March 23, 2008
City Gallery at Waterfront Park,
34 Pringle Street, Charleston
 Peruse a photographic and artistic exhibit illustrating the global water crisis and WMI's dedication to providing safe water to developing nations and disaster areas.

Water for Life Walk

Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m.
Hazel Parker Playground,
Downtown Charleston
 Join this three-mile walk along Charleston's Battery that symbolizes the distance travelled by many women and children each day to gather water.

For more information, visit www.watermissions.org or call (843) 769-7395.

At last year's event, walkers carried buckets of water to demonstrate how millions of people around the world get their drinking water: traveling by foot to a nearby well or stream.

Be Water Wise!

The New Year brought some much-needed rainfall, but not enough to end the severe drought still gripping the state.

Although the Lowcountry's water supply remains plentiful, the drought is a good reminder of just how valuable water is—and that we all bear the responsibility of conserving and protecting our water resources.

Here are a few ways you can be water wise:

1. Don't use the toilet as a trash can! Throw away tissues and other items in the waste basket.
2. Run the dishwasher and washing machine only when you have full loads.
3. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
4. Check faucets and toilets for leaks. Even a small leak can waste a lot of water over time—and increase your bill.
5. Water your lawn early in the morning to minimize evaporation.

For more water conservation tips, including a water leak calculator, visit www.drinktap.org.



A faucet that leaks just ten drips per minute will waste 43 gallons in a month's time.

Project Profile: New Water Main Under the Stono

Crews are replacing the aging water main on the bed of the Stono River with a new main drilled under the riverbed.

The existing pipe was installed in the 1980s and has suffered damage from passing water craft.

This project is a part of Charleston Water's ongoing Capital Improvement Program.





Meet Our Staff!

Name:

Yolanda Torres

Job Title:

Bilingual Customer Service Representative

From:

New York City. Moved to Charleston in 1989, right before Hurricane Hugo.

Years with Charleston Water System: 1 ½

What I do:

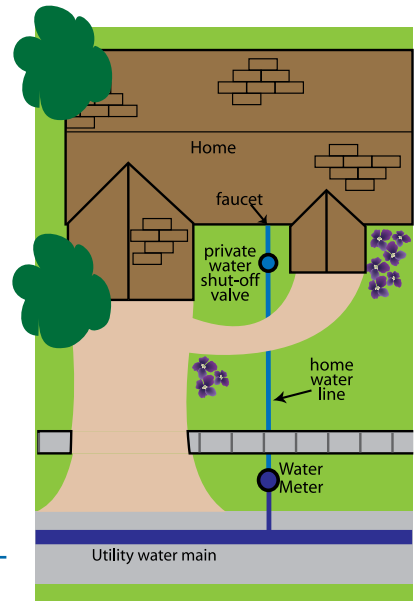
I work in our North Area branch office taking payments and answering customers' questions about their bills.

What I like most about my job:

Helping people in person, especially being able to help Spanish speaking customers. I've also enjoyed translating and recording the Spanish version of our new customer service phone system.

Water ? Whys

What is the shut off valve for my home's water supply, where do I find it, and when should I use it?



The shut-off valve, also called the stop and waste valve, is an emergency shut-off access point for your home's water supply.

The location of the valve may vary, but it's typically located in the ground near an outdoor water faucet, in line with your water meter. Make sure this valve is clearly marked, accessible, and that everyone in your home knows where it's located.

In the event of a water line break inside your house, you will need to turn off the water supply at the main shut-off valve. Finding this valve before an emergency and knowing how to use it can help prevent substantial water damage to your property.

A Look Back...



The Hanahan Steam Pumping Station, pictured here in 1905, was built in 1903 by the Charleston Light & Water Company to pump drinking water from the Goose Creek Reservoir.

Charleston's Water treatment plant still operates from this site. The original building was refurbished in the 1980s to house the plant's administrative offices and laboratory.

Numerous buildings and basins were added over the years to accommodate new treatment technology and allow the plant to keep up with the increasing demand for drinking water. Today, the plant treats water from the Bushy Park Reservoir and the Edisto River.

For more history, visit www.charlestonwater.com.

Water FACT:

Charleston Water System produces an average of 50 million gallons of clean drinking water every day.