



What's On Tap?

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Water Authority Cleans Up Bodden Town

As an annual sponsor of the Chamber of Commerce's Island Wide Earth Day Clean Up, the Water Authority staff joined in once again to do their part to keep the Cayman Islands' natural environment pristine and healthy.

"The Authority has sponsored staff to participate in the Island Wide Clean Up since 2007," Corporate Communications Officer Hannah Reid said, "and has been a proud sponsor of the event itself since 2009."

This year the team decided to tackle the area surrounding Manse Road in Bodden Town.

A team of 29 staff and a few family members arrived in Bodden Town bright and early to start the clean up. Human Resources Supervisor Yolita Parchment said that this was the highest level of participation

since the Authority began sponsoring the event.

"I've been organising this clean up event since 2009 and I must say that this past Saturday was the most impressive turnout by staff," Ms Parchment said. "It was wonderful to see the children participating too. Together we made a positive difference to the beaches and roadside of Manse Road in Bodden Town."

Ms Reid explained that the decision to choose an area in Bodden Town was a way for the Authority to give back to the community and thank Bodden Town residents for their patience while infrastructure works are on-going.

"The residents and businesses of Bodden Town have been very understanding throughout the pipeline upgrade project and the Authority wanted to use this

opportunity to show the community our appreciation," she said.

The second phase of the Bodden Town Pipeline Project began in January, 2016. Due to technical issues, however, work was temporarily halted in March, 2016.

Ms Parchment said she is already looking ahead to next year's clean up: "I look forward to an even bigger WAC team next year!"



Director's Message

The Authority was once again proud to be a sponsor of the Chamber's annual Island Wide Earth Day Clean Up. This is an opportunity to give back to the community that the Authority staff look forward to each year and we were happy to join the almost 1,500 other volunteers who signed up to participate in the 2016 event.

Now that another successful Earth Day has passed, we at the Authority are setting our sights on the next important day in our calendar—1 June, the start of Hurricane Season. I encourage everyone to start your preparations early and to follow the Authority on social media for important preparedness

tips and public service announcements. There is also a wealth of information on what to do before, during and after a storm on the Authority's website.

On a more positive note, this issue of What's On Tap? also focuses on the Authority's successful partnership with the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre to provide two promising students with work experience, and an innovative use of technology by the Authority's Wastewater and Engineering Departments. As the year progresses, the Authority hopes to continue to develop local talent and encourage technological innovation within its departments.

— Dr. Frederick-van Genderen

OUR COMMITMENT to you...

The Water Authority was established in 1983 as a statutory body responsible for supplying pure, wholesome and affordable drinking water to the people of the Cayman Islands.

The Authority is also responsible for the proper treatment of wastewater and for the protection of the fresh groundwater lenses that exist throughout the Cayman Islands.



KNOWLEDGE ZONE

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Atlantic Hurricane Season begins on 1 June.

Before the Storm:

- Turn off the customer shutoff valve prior to the onset of the storm to minimise the chances of property damage or an unexpectedly high water bill. This step is especially important if you plan to leave your home to shelter elsewhere. If your meter does not have a shutoff valve on the customer side, please contact the Authority to learn more about installing one.

Visit www.waterauthority.ky for more hurricane preparedness tips.

HR Briefs

Welcome:

Linda Sancroft
Customer Service Representative

Transfers/Promotions:

Bruce Thompson Jr.
Meter Reader

Alyssa Watler
Cashier

Interested in learning more about working for the Water Authority? Visit us online to learn more about our team!



Using a GoPro to Plumb the Depths

The Authority recently began a project to inspect the hundreds of manholes located throughout the West Bay Beach Sewerage System.

Traditional manhole inspection cameras, however, can cost thousands of dollars. So the Engineering and Wastewater Departments joined forces to come up with an innovative and cost-effective solution... a GoPro!

Gary Phillips, Engineer - Wastewater, explained that worker safety and economics played a large role in choosing to work with a GoPro.

"At roughly 10% of the cost of a traditional manhole inspection camera, the GoPro camera delivers exceptionally high quality videos and pictures," Mr. Phillips said.

The GoPro camera was mounted to a special rig designed in-house. The rig rotates the

camera as it is lowered down the manhole, resulting in 360° views that can be watched live from a tablet as they are recorded.

Graduate Engineer Jodiann Jackson, who spearheads the project, said that the innovative design has already proved its worth in the field.

"The setup of the apparatus and GoPro is quick and easy, plus the quality of the images is remarkable," she said.

The videos and photographs captured by the GoPro allow the engineers to evaluate the condition of the manholes without having to physically send a person inside.

"Manhole videos collected to date show some of our manholes to be in excellent condition and some that are in need of repair," said Mr. Phillips, noting that two manholes identified through the



project are now scheduled to be replaced completely.

Ms Jackson explained that this is just the first phase of the assessment.

"The inspections will be completed in two stages; we have started with our lateral lines and further in the year we will proceed with our trunk (main) lines which are deeper and a bit higher risk to inspect," she explained.

The project, she says, is just another example of the Authority embracing new technology to maximise productivity.

CIFEC Students Learn on the Job through Internships

As part of its commitment to the development of local talent, the Authority welcomed two students from the Cayman Islands Further Education Centre.

The students, Ernest Bennett and Winston Lightbody, worked part-time with the Building & Equipment division of the Operations Department for 5 months. During this time, the students got hands-on experience working with the vehicles and equipment that are vital to the Authority's infrastructure projects.

CIFEC Career Services Manager Heather-Ann Cahill said that placing young people with local companies helps them to build a strong work ethic.

"For example, at the Water Authority students are building their confidence and knowledge as well as their dependability, time management and the ability to manage priorities and work in a team," she said.

Chief Human Resources Manager Pat Bell explained that the Authority was proud to partner with CIFEC.

"We view this as a win-win situation for the Authority and the students, who had the opportunity to experience the 'real world of work' in their area of interest, which should assist them in developing their career goals," she said. "On the other hand, this was another great opportunity for the

Authority to establish positive relationships with young Caymanians and, hopefully, peak their interest in a career in the water/wastewater utility sector."

The students are pictured below with members of their families and Water Authority staff.

