

## Clean Water for Life

### Rate Increase to Fund Infrastructure Projects

Charleston Water System's water rates will increase by an average of 4% and sewer rates will go up an average of 7% beginning December 1st. The increase will show on the bill you receive in January.

This is the last in a series of gradual rate increases approved in 2006 to help pay for water and sewer infrastructure projects in our Capital Improvement Program.

A residential customer who lives inside the City of Charleston and uses 6,000 gallons of water a month will pay an additional \$0.72 a month for water and \$5.82 for sewer. Learn more on our web site at [www.charlestonwater.com](http://www.charlestonwater.com).

#### Service Fee Changes

Some of Charleston Water's service fees are changing, effective December 1st. For a complete list of service fees, visit our web site.

Fee	Old	New (as of Dec. 1)
Non-Payment Fee	\$40	\$50
Revisit/ Service Call Fee	\$40	\$30
After Hours Visit Fee	\$40	\$50
Water Account Origination Fee	\$25	\$30
Sewer Account Origination Fee	\$15/ \$25	\$30

### Charleston Water Joins Pharmaceuticals Study

How effective are wastewater treatment plants in removing pharmaceutical compounds from the sewage they treat?

Researchers hope to answer that question in a two-year study being conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the College of Charleston, and the SC Sea Grants Consortium.

Charleston Water System and Mount Pleasant Waterworks are helping to fund the study and are providing samples for researchers to analyze.

Wastewater treatment plants, such as Charleston Water's Plum Island Plant, are designed to remove debris, bacteria, and nutrients that would otherwise pollute our waterways. They were not designed to remove trace levels of medicines and personal care products, which technology now allows labs to measure at incredibly small levels.

Other research studies are focusing on learning whether trace amounts of medicines have an impact on wildlife, and if so, at what levels.



Four new filter basins are under construction at the Hanahan Water Treatment Plant. Filtration is a key step in the water treatment process, and the new basins will replace some aging filters built in 1947. The \$19 million project also includes new piping and new storage tanks for treatment chemicals.

#### How You Can Help

##### Proper Disposal of Medications

Don't flush prescription medications! Instead, remove medications from their original packaging and mix with coffee grounds or kitty litter in an empty can or plastic bag, then throw in the trash.

## Disinfection of Drinking Water Turns 100!

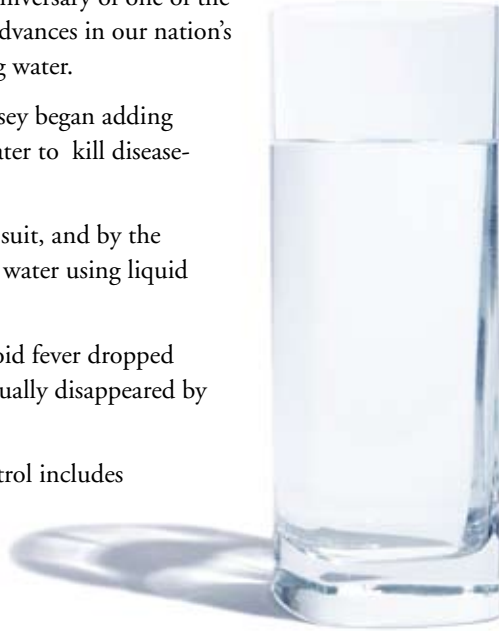
This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of the most important public health advances in our nation's history: disinfection of drinking water.

In 1908, Jersey City, New Jersey began adding a disinfectant to its drinking water to kill disease-causing microorganisms.

Other cities quickly followed suit, and by the 1920s, disinfection of drinking water using liquid chlorine was common practice.

As a result, deaths from typhoid fever dropped dramatically and the illness virtually disappeared by the 1940s.

The Centers for Disease Control includes disinfection of drinking water in its list of the top ten public health advances of the twentieth century.



### Speaking of Public Health...Flu Season is Here!

The flu is a contagious illness that can result in death. The best way to protect yourself and the ones you love from the flu is to get an annual flu vaccination.

Annual flu shots are now recommended for all children 6 months to 18 years of age and for everyone who doesn't want to get the flu. Plan now to protect your family by calling your doctor for an appointment or the public health department at 953-0090 if you do not have a doctor.

## Learn About Your Water!

*Where does your water come from? How is it treated? What happens to it after it goes down the drain?*

### Charleston Water System's Speakers Bureau

*Schedule a Speaker!*  
[info@charlestoncpw.com](mailto:info@charlestoncpw.com)  
(843) 727-6856

Schedule a speaker to visit your school or community group and get the answers to all your questions about drinking water!

We can tailor our talk to your group's interests. You might be surprised at how interesting water can be!

Call (843) 727-6856 or send an e-mail to [info@charlestoncpw.com](mailto:info@charlestoncpw.com) to schedule a speaker.

## Spotlight

### Milestone: 10 Years of Environmental Management!

In 1998, Charleston Water System implemented an Environmental Management System (EMS) to help us manage and reduce our impact on the environment.

Our EMS program helped us become the first water and wastewater utility in the nation to achieve certification under the international standard for environmental management—ISO 14001.



### Bridge Water Fountain

A water fountain now greets walkers, runners, and cyclists on the Charleston side of the Arthur Ravenel Bridge's pedestrian path. The fountain was sponsored by Dixon-Hughes, LLC, the Coastal Community Foundation, the Charleston Running Club, and Charleston Water System.

