

IN THE SEWER:  
I WONDER  
WHAT'S CLOGGING  
UP THE ATHENS  
UNDERWORLD!

fall  
2025



# SEWER =THINGS

INSIDE:

Free Coffee, Flappers,  
and Showerheads!

Employee Spotlight

Fall Events

water  
SOURCE

SPooky  
CREATURES LURK  
IN ATHENS'  
UNDERWORLD!





# Chip Felton

## SENIOR CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Since joining the Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department in April 2011, Chip Felton has played a key role in keeping our community's water and sewer systems flowing safely. Chip has steadily advanced through roles such as Sewer Maintenance Operator, Heavy Equipment Operator, Right of Way Crew Leader, and Capital Construction Crew Supervisor before taking on his current position as Senior Construction and Maintenance Supervisor. Today, he oversees teams of employees within the Water & Sewer Division.

A "typical" day for Chip is anything but routine. He assigns crews to projects ranging from sewer line maintenance to capital construction, clears work orders, and often jumps in to support field operations himself. This variety is his favorite part of the job: "I like the randomness. One day I'm at a desk doing paperwork, the next I'm out with a crew."

Chip's division  
manages more than  
**820 miles of water  
distribution lines**  
and **500 miles of  
sewer lines** across  
our county.

Over the years, Chip has gained a wide range of expertise. He holds a Commercial Driver's License, Backflow License, Water Distribution License, and Sewer Collection License, and has mastered equipment from boom trucks and excavators to valve insertion equipment—which allows crews to install valves in water mains without shutting off service.

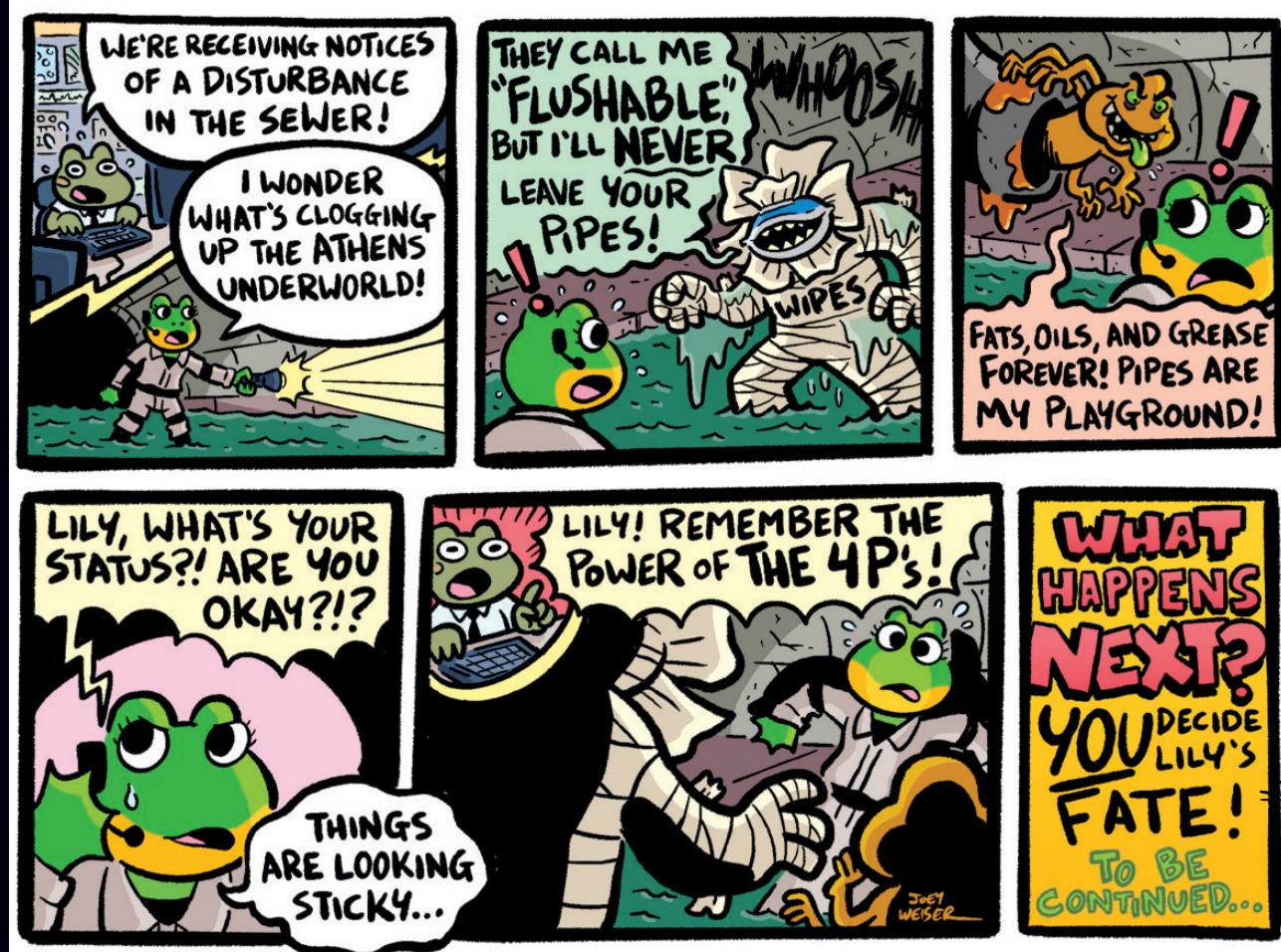
Chip thinks it may surprise ACC residents that our stormwater and sewer systems are completely separate. The sewer system is an underground network of pipes that carries wastewater from our homes and businesses to a water reclamation facility for treatment, while the stormwater system is designed to move rainwater runoff directly into local waterways. Chip often receives calls about storm drains and ditches, which are part of the stormwater system—not the sanitary sewer.

As for how customers can help? Chip is clear: "There's no such thing as a flushable wipe." Wipes cause most sewer clogs, so please stick to the 4 Ps of Flushing: Pee, Poo, Paper, and Puke.

Thank you, Chip, for your dedication and leadership!

# SEWER THINGS

It's time for a spooky adventure in Athens' underworld! Join Lily and Tad as they stake out the ACC sewers to battle two household menaces. But, the story ends with a twist: we want YOU to decide how it all wraps up! Will Lily triumph with a heroic flush? Will Athens' sewers flow freely again? Send us your best final panel idea—or even draw your own comic strip—for a chance to be featured in the next *Watersource* newsletter. Email your ending by Dec 5, 2025 to [savewater@accgov.com](mailto:savewater@accgov.com), and use the 4Ps to help Lily and Tad keep Athens clog-free!



Art by Joey Weiser

## The 4 P's of flushing

ONLY  
**PEE, POO,  
TOILET PAPER  
AND PUKE**  
DOWN THE POTTY!

Email your ending by Dec. 5 to [savewater@accgov.com](mailto:savewater@accgov.com)

If the wrong items are flushed down the toilet, pipes can be clogged and blocked. If pipes become clogged, sewage might back into your apartment or house. Yuck!

## h2o happenings

OCT  
15 & 16

### IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER

Join the Water Conservation Office as we highlight the value of water. Your morning cup of Joe depends on H<sub>2</sub>O, so stop by the Library for a free cup of coffee and water-themed goodies. Bring your family for a water story and craft. Imagine A Day Without Water is an annual event to raise awareness about the importance of safe, affordable, reliable water access. Find out more: [ImagineADayWithoutWater.org](http://ImagineADayWithoutWater.org)

#### Winterville

**When:** Wednesday, October 15  
10:15 AM, free Jittery Joe's coffee and giveaways  
10:40 AM, story time  
**Where:** Winterville Library, 115 Marigold Lane

#### Athens

**When:** Thursday, October 16  
9:00–10:30 AM, free Jittery Joe's coffee and giveaways in the Library lobby  
10:30–11:15 AM, Library Children's Area, children's stories, craft, and maybe even a surprise visitor!  
**Where:** Athens–Clarke County Library, 2025 Baxter St.



You can't have your morning cup of Joe without H<sub>2</sub>O!

#### Save More than Just Water

### SHOWERHEAD GIVEAWAY

In conjunction with the EPA's Save More than Just Water, free WaterSense labeled showerheads allow for a satisfying shower while saving water, energy, and money.

**When:** October 1–31, while supplies last

**Where:** Athens Hardware  
1080 US-29  
M–F: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM  
Normal Hardware  
1328 Prince Ave.  
M–F: 8:00 AM–5:30 PM;  
Sat: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM



More Info:  
[ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)

### TRICK OR TREATMENT TOUR

Magical sludge and microscopic bugs. Vats of bubbling potions. This isn't a witch's concoction – it's water reclamation! Join this spooky tour of the Cedar Creek water reclamation process to find out what's brewing and how we keep Athens' water clean. Costumes optional. FREE!

**When:** Thursday, October 30, 6:00 PM

**Where:** Cedar Creek Water Reclamation Facility

Register: [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)



OCT

OCT 30

NOV 19

### TOILET ROCKS!

Starting November 1, be on the lookout for toilet decorated rocks around Athens in honor of World Toilet Day. If you find a Toilet Rock, snap a picture and submit it to be entered into a bidet giveaway! On World Toilet Day (November 19), three lucky submitters will be selected at random to receive a bidet.

Follow [@lilyannephibian](https://www.instagram.com/lilyannephibian) on Instagram for clues on where the toilet rocks are dropped.

Submit entries by Nov. 16 at: [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)



NOV 13

### Make a Splash! HOLIDAY COOKING JUST GOT HEALTHIER

Join us as we partner with UGA Extension and learn how to make the holidays healthier for you and the water supply. Make a splash with healthy substitutions for recipes and new cooking techniques, like sous vide. Find out how to cook with less water, dispose of fats, oils and grease and more!

**When:** November 13, 6:00–7:30 PM

**Where:** Athens–Clarke County Extension Office, 275 Cleveland Rd.

Register: [ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)

NOV

### Foolproof Flushing! TOILET FLAPPER GIVEAWAY

In conjunction with the WaterSense theme of Foolproof Flushing, pick-up a free 2' or 3' universal flapper.

**When:** November 1–30, while supplies last

**Where:** Athens Hardware  
1080 US-29  
M–F: 8:00 AM–5:00 PM  
Normal Hardware  
1328 Prince Ave.  
M–F: 8:00 AM–5:30 PM;  
Sat: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM





*Thank you to all the participants!*

Check out the 2025 photo gallery at: [AthensWaterFestival.com](http://AthensWaterFestival.com)

**The 16th Annual  
Athens Water  
Festival had  
1,304 attendees  
including 138  
presenters and  
51 volunteers.**



[accgov.com/publicutilities](http://accgov.com/publicutilities)  
[ThinkAtTheSink.com](http://ThinkAtTheSink.com)  
  
 [facebook.com/lilyanne.phibian](https://facebook.com/lilyanne.phibian)  
 [x.com/AccWaterWarrior](https://x.com/AccWaterWarrior)  
 [instagram.com/lilyannephibian](https://instagram.com/lilyannephibian)

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**Water Bill Questions**  
706-613-3500

**Administration**  
706-613-3470

**Water Conservation**  
706-613-3729

**To Report a Water Leak**  
706-613-3495

**Emergencies**  
706-613-3481

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