



News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

Newly appointed Commissioners join those sworn in to MWA Board

The Macon-Bibb County Commission, as is customary every four years, has appointed two of its own to serve among the seven members of Macon Water Authority (MWA) Board of Directors.

Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, a previous Member of the MWA Board, joins Commissioner Gary Bechtel, the newest MWA Board Member, as new appointees to the MWA by the Macon-Bibb County Commission.

Mr. Bivins is the District 5 Commissioner on the Macon-Bibb County Commission, last elected in 2013 after having served previously on the Bibb County Board of Commissioners since 1995. Raised in Macon, Mr. Bivins worked for 30 years at Robins Air Force Base, followed by another 10 years as a teacher in the Bibb County School System.

Mr. Bechtel is the District 1 Commissioner for the Macon-Bibb County Commission. Prior to being elected to his current post, he served a year on the Bibb County Board of Commissioners in 2012, following 12 years of service on the Bibb County

Board of Education. Mr. Bechtel is Vice President of Guaranty Financial, Inc., a commercial mortgage brokerage firm with offices in Macon, Columbus and Orlando, Florida.



Gary Bechtel, Macon-Bibb County District 1 Commissioner, is the newest Member of the MWA Board. He joins District 5 Commissioner Bert Bivins, III as Members of the MWA Board who are appointed by the Macon-Bibb County Commission.

Two Members of the MWA Board were sworn in recently to mark the start of their new terms in office following their re-election.

On Dec. 28, Mr. Javors J. Lucas was sworn in by Bibb County Probate Judge Sarah Harris, after Mr. Dwight Jones had been sworn in a week earlier on Dec. 20. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Jones represent Districts 2 and 3, respectively, on the MWA Board.

Mr. Lucas was first elected to the Authority in 1982. His 34 years of service on the MWA are more than any other current Board Member. He spent 22 years as Vice Chairman alongside former MWA Chairman Frank Amerson. To honor his years of service, the Authority dedicated and renamed its Town Creek Reservoir as Javors Lucas Lake in 2006.

Mr. Jones joined the MWA in June of 2014, after winning a special election that summer to fill the vacated District 3 seat. His re-election and swearing in this year mark the beginning of his first full term as an Authority Board Member.

For complete bios on Mr. Lucas, Mr. Jones, and the other Board Members, check out the "About Us" page on our website at www.maconwater.org.



MWA District 2 Board Member Javors J. Lucas (right) was sworn into office on Dec. 28, by Bibb County Probate Judge Sarah Harris (left). MWA District 3 Board Member Dwight Jones (not pictured) was sworn in on Dec. 20.

MWA prepares for Outdoor Recreation in 2017

The MWA Outdoor Recreation Committee has announced the following 2017 Public Fishing Schedule at Javors Lucas Lake:

📍 March 3 – April 30, 2017
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 6:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

📍 May 5 – June 25, 2017
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 6:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

📍 July 1 – August 31, 2017
Javors Lucas Lake is closed for public fishing and boating.

📍 Sept. 2 – Oct. 29, 2017
Saturdays and Sundays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Javors Lucas Lake will be closed on Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. For more information on MWA public fishing, contact us at 478-464-5650, or log onto our website at www.maconwater.org.

Save the Dates:

The MWA will celebrate National Drinking Water Week with an **Open House** at the Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant – a five-time Plant of the Year Award winner – on **Thursday May 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

The **12th Annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby** will be held at Javors Lucas Lake on **Saturday June 3, 2017**. Kids from the ages of 3 to 16 are invited to fish for free while competing for the biggest catch of the day.

Finally, Macon's **11th Annual River Cleanup – Ocmulgee Alive!** – will be held on **Saturday Oct. 14, 2017**. Macon's Annual River Cleanup is one of the largest events affiliated with the Georgia Rivers Alive program.

Check the MWA website (www.maconwater.org) for more details to come on these three major public education events.



Drought Update: MWA's Javors Lucas Lake at Full Pool

Even amidst the Level 1 Drought Response for Macon-Bibb County imposed by Georgia EPD, the MWA's reservoir – Javors Lucas Lake – was back to full pool by the end of January.

In 2016, most of Georgia experienced the third driest year for rainfall since 1990. Even during the several months of exceptional drought conditions in the region, the MWA had more than enough water supply from Javors Lucas Lake to serve its customers. With approximately 5.8 billion gallons of raw water storage at full pool, Javors Lucas Lake never dipped below 3.9 billion gallons, or 67% of its capacity.

That's because the MWA can

withdraw water from the Ocmulgee River into Javors Lucas Lake with the use of Variable Frequency Drive pumps. While the MWA is permitted to pump between 35 to 110 million gallons per day (MGD) from the Ocmulgee, depending on the flow in the river, the Authority only needed to withdraw 30 MGD to replenish the water storage in Javors Lucas Lake to full pool.

Currently, MWA customers can water outdoors daily, except between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Regardless of drought conditions or watering restrictions in place, MWA customers are encouraged to use water wisely.



Javors Lucas Lake aerial photo credit: Mark Strozier.

SECOND FRONT

Flint, Michigan one year later: MWA Core Values ensure water quality and safety

It was just a year ago that officials from Flint, Michigan faced a water quality crisis – one of the most serious in the nation due to lead exposure by their customers – that raised awareness of how clean, safe drinking water is not something to take for granted.

Meanwhile, 850 miles south the Macon Water Authority (MWA) staff was completing a process to identify the Core Values, Vision and Mission of the utility. Little did our local water professionals know how salient and timely that exercise would be.

Sure, MWA's technical expertise as an award-winning utility should assure its customers that the water treatment shortcuts and mistakes that occurred in Flint would never be duplicated here.

But the real story of water quality at the MWA is in its Core Values. Operating according to these



high standards, the MWA will never be in jeopardy of losing the integrity of its system – and hopefully the trust of its customers.

“Well before we were aware of the crisis in Flint,

our staff was composing a list of Core Values as a pledge to our customers that producing and delivering clean, safe drinking water was our number one priority,” says Tony Rojas, President and Executive Director of the MWA.

Those Core Values include: Service, Integrity, Stewardship, Professionalism, Innovation, and perhaps most relevant, Safety.

“Because we follow these Core Values, we are committed in our Mission of providing quality water and sewer services for our customers,” adds Rojas. “You won’t see an incident like the one in Flint occur here, because we have safeguards in place to prevent this. But more importantly, it’s due to the fact that we operate according to Core Values that define who we are as water professionals.”

Employees of the Year exemplify Service, Integrity, Professionalism

During its 2016 Employee Christmas Party, the MWA recognized three special individuals who are among the best of the best water professionals at the utility.

Kenny Defore, who works in MWA Plant Operations, was selected as the Overall Employee

of the Year. In addition, Stephanie King was honored as the Employee of the Year for the Administrative Division, along with Aaron Watson, who was recognized as the Employee of the Year among Field Operations.

These three individuals personify MWA Core Values. For one, they

provide reliable, responsive and quality Service to all MWA customers. They also reflect the Integrity of the MWA to know and do what is right. Finally, their Professionalism is evident, as they provide MWA customers and their peers with excellent water resource management skills.



MWA Human Resources Director Kellie Giles recognizes Kenny Defore (left) as the MWA Overall Employee of the Year and for the Plant Operations Division.



MWA Human Resources Director Kellie Giles recognizes Stephanie King (right) as the Employee of the Year within the Administrative Division of the MWA.



The MWA recognized Aaron Watson (center) as its Employee of the Year within the Field Operations Division of the Authority.

It's a Toilet, not a Trashcan!

Please do not flush:

- Paper Towels
- Facial Tissues
- Wet Wipes
- Rags/Cloths
- Cotton Swabs
- Dental Floss
- Cat Litter
- Tampons



MWA Customer Care embraces the Value of Innovation

MWA E-bill and Online Bill Pay Services are prime examples of how the Authority improves customer service through Innovation, which is one of the Core Values of the utility.

With E-Bill Service, MWA customers can have their monthly water/sewer bill sent to them electronically by way of an email attachment, replacing their monthly paper bill in the process. Customers can sign up for E-bill Service by going to the “Billing Inquiry” page on the MWA website at www.maconwater.org, and logging on to their account online.

MWA customers also can pay their bill online by using the Authority's improved Online Bill Pay Portal, with new features and benefits that were added last year. Online bill pay is quick, easy and assures payments are always made on time.

When logging onto your MWA account online, you can pay by check or credit card, and do so via the new “Auto Pay” feature.



The “Text and Pay” option also enables you to pay by smart phone, and you can download past bills, look at your payment history, and manage several accounts at once. You can even store different payment methods from which to choose each month. For more information on E-bill or Online Bill Pay Services, contact the MWA Customer Care Department at 478-464-5600.

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