



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY

MWA-MBCIA Partnership in Economic Development Brings Jobs to Macon-Bibb

Tyson Foods, Inc. recently initiated a \$59-million-dollar expansion to its distribution center located within the Frank C. Amerson I-75 Industrial Park in Macon-Bibb County. The project is expected to bring an additional 100 jobs to the region.

The expansion, which is targeted for completion in late 2018, will entail a 152,000-square-foot addition to Tyson's existing distribution center. The new addition is designed to improve the center's efficiency and support the company's future plans for growth.

The Tyson Foods Distribution Center, which was originally owned by Sara Lee, was the first facility constructed within the Amerson Industrial Park.



The Amerson Industrial Park was made possible thanks to funding from the MWA, in partnership with the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority (MBCIA). The Authority invests \$704,000 annually

into a fund designated for the development of industrial sites in Macon-Bibb County, with the Amerson Industrial Park being one of the most impactful returns on that investment.

"Not only is this (Tyson Foods expansion) a win for Macon, but for the entire state," says Pat Wilson, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. "The growth of our existing industries is critically important to our state's overall economic well-being."

In 2016, Site Selection Magazine ranked Georgia the Number 1 state for business, with the best business climate in the nation, for the fourth consecutive year.

Director of Wastewater Operations Retiring after 30 Years at MWA

New Director brings 25 years of experience herself to the position

Larry Reynolds (pictured below, left), MWA Director of Wastewater Operations, is retiring after 30 years of service to the MWA. He will be followed by Jocelyn Hunt, who is being promoted from MWA Assistant Manager of Water Operations.

Larry and Jocelyn both have their Class 1 Licenses as Wastewater Plant Operators, which is the highest level of certification available in the industry. The two are highly decorated water professionals who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the industry as well.

Larry came to the MWA in 1988 as a Wastewater Operator Trainee, before serving as an Operator at the MWA's Rocky Creek Plant and as Supervisor for both the Rocky Creek and Lower Poplar Wastewater Treatment Facilities. From there, he advanced to the role of

Assistant Manager at Rocky Creek, prior to accepting the Director's position in 2013.

Jocelyn came to the MWA in 1992, following four years of service in the U.S. Army, where she was a Water Treatment Specialist. She worked her first 12 years at the MWA as a Water Plant



Operator for the Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant. The Authority then promoted her to Assistant Manager of Water Operations, where she served until this most recent promotion to Director of Wastewater Operations.

For the complete feature on Larry and Jocelyn, check out the "news" on our website at www.maconwater.org.

Congratulations to additional MWA retirees

The MWA also would like to congratulate three other retirees with 78 years of combined service to the utility and its customers.

Michael Cunningham is retiring from Macon Soils, Inc. after 22 years; Dale Johnson is retiring as Assistant Manager of the Rock Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility after 24 years; and David Holloway is retiring from Field Services in the MWA Customer Care Department after 32 years of service to the Authority.

MWA Meter Reader a Contest Finalist

While Greg Pope is recognized for the fine job he does as a Meter Reader for the MWA, he also has received national attention for helping his son submit an idea for the newest flavor of Wavy Lay's Potato Chip, when they entered the "Do Us A Flavor" contest sponsored by Frito Lay.

The Popes were selected as one of three finalists in the contest that awards \$1 million dollars to the winner. Their idea was to convert the family's recipe for fried green tomatoes into a Wavy Lays chip.

Greg's father used to grow vine ripened tomatoes in his garden, which Greg would use to make fried green tomatoes. The family's recipe, coupled with Greg's home cooking, caught the attention of the Frito Lay snack company.

After seeing the Frito Lay contest online, Greg's son says the idea for a fried green tomato flavor was the first thing that came to mind. Greg's delicious recipe includes cornmeal, flour, black pepper and salt, with a secret ingredient of love.



MWA Meter Reader Greg Pope (left) and his son enjoy the family's recipe for fried green tomatoes, which inspired the Popes to enter the "Do Us A Flavor" contest.

New Customer Service Software Benefits All Who Do Business with MWA

This Fall, the MWA will be rolling out its new "Cayenta" Customer Billing and Financial Software, with great features for all who do business with the MWA.

Benefits to MWA Customers:

The new software offers MWA customers access to a self-service account management portal, which has features such as a 24-month consumption graph, historic water usage data, flexibility to make payment arrangements or schedule reoccurring and one-time payments, online means for starting, stopping, or transferring MWA services, and more.

The new software also features daily billing, which provides MWA customers with more consistent and timely bills, as bills now will be generated closer to the actual water usage period of a customer.

MWA customers will be able to access an online



Live-Chat Feature, which allows communication with MWA Customer Care Representatives.

The functionality of the new software will allow MWA staff the ability to better manage its interactions with customers and relationships with external vendors within a quick response period.

The new software offers enhanced reporting and performance tracking capabilities, which can assist the MWA in future decision making.

In addition, the software offers a paperless process for many operations performed by staff, so invoices, purchase orders, and requisitions can be exchanged digitally, reflecting the Authority's commitment to environmental stewardship.

SECOND FRONT

MWA Recognized for Achievement in Diversity, Volunteerism and More

The state's water industry has recognized the Macon Water Authority (MWA) for achievement and leadership in the areas of diversity, volunteerism, service, and more, by honoring several employees and a long-time Board Member at the recent Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Annual Conference & Expo held in Savannah.

Among those MWA officials honored included Gary McCoy, MWA Director of Water Operations, who received the 2017 Champion of Diversity Award from the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association (GAWWA). The GAWP also

recognized long-time MWA District 2 Board Member Javors J. Lucas and the Authority's Mark Wyzalek, MWA Director of Laboratory/Environmental Compliance, with Lifetime Membership for their 30 years of service.

In addition, GAWP inducted the Authority's Heather Veal, CMOM Coordinator for the MWA, into the 5-S Society, prior to Veal accepting the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award on behalf of the MWA. The Authority totaled nearly 580 hours of community service this past year, which earned the MWA a Silver Level Award.

Also during the GAWP Annual Conference, the Authority's Darryl Macy, MWA Manager of Sewer Conveyance & Water Distribution, received the Water Environment Federation (WEF) Service Award for his term as a Delegate.

Finally, the Authority's Desmond Cobbs completed Level 1 of the GAWP Leadership Academy, prompting his recognition among the graduates of the 2017 Class.

For complete coverage of the MWA at the GAWP Annual Conference & Expo, check out our website at www.maconwater.org.



Gary McCoy (right), MWA Director of Water Operations, is interviewed during a technical session of the GAWP Annual Conference & Expo, after being honored as a Champion of Diversity.



Heather Veal (center), CMOM Coordinator for the MWA, accepts the President's Volunteer Service Award on behalf of the MWA, prior to being inducted into the 5-S Society.



Darryl Macy (center), MWA Manager of Sewer Conveyance & Water Distribution, receives the WEF Service Award for his term as a State Delegate for the industry association.

Opportunities for Your Involvement in Environmental Stewardship

Ocmulgee Alive scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 7

The MWA and its Macon Water Alliance subsidiary, in partnership with NewTown Macon/Ocmulgee Heritage Trail and Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful, will be hosting the **13th Annual Ocmulgee Alive! on Saturday Oct 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Macon's Annual River Cleanup is held in conjunction with the statewide Rivers Alive campaign of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's (EPD) Outreach Program. Rivers Alive was established to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's waterways.

Volunteers without a pre-assigned location to clean can meet at 8:15 a.m. on Oct. 7, at Amerson River Park for instructions. Souvenir t-shirts are free to those who register early, while supplies last.

Registration forms and additional details are available on the MWA website at www.maconwater.org.



Altamaha Riverkeeper hosting September events

The Altamaha Riverkeeper will be hosting a Sunset & Full Moon Cruise down the Altamaha River on Thursday Sept. 7.

The Cruise will depart from the Hampton Marina on St. Simon's Island at 6:00 p.m. and return around 9:30 p.m. The cost of the event is \$100.

The Altamaha Riverkeeper also has scheduled its annual Riverkeeper Rendezvous for Thursday Sept. 16, at the Sheridan's Home in Macon. The cost of this event is \$50.

For more information on these upcoming Riverkeeper events, contact Jen Hilburn at jen@altamahariverkeeper.org.

MWA Approves \$50 Million CIP for 2018-2022

During its August Meeting, the MWA approved a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the years 2018-2022, which includes Capital Reserve items as well as Operations and Maintenance items.



The total investment by the MWA in its current five-year CIP is slightly shy of \$50 Million, with approximately \$3.5 Million designated for Operations and Maintenance and the remaining \$46 Million for Capital Reserve projects.

The Authority revisits its CIP budget annually during this time of year, making necessary adjustments to appropriations for various capital items.

The CIP budget contains assets and projects deemed necessary to maintain and support the infrastructure and mission of the MWA - "to provide quality water and sewer services for the enhancement of the quality of life and economic well-being for the customers and community we serve."



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