

Currents



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY

MWA Welcomes Irving Consumer Products to Macon-Bibb County

J.D. Irving Company, one of the largest paper and tissue product producers in the world, has selected Macon-Bibb County as the site for constructing its second U.S. production facility.

The new facility for Irving Consumer Products, which is expected to employ more than 200 people with a payroll in excess of \$11 million, will be located within the Sofkee Industrial Park, next to Kumho Tire.

The role of the Macon Water Authority (MWA) in enticing Irving Consumer Products to the Sofkee

Industrial Park, a development-ready site, was significant. In addition to investing \$704,000 annually into a revolving fund for the development of industrial park sites and infrastructure, the MWA also has the water and sewer capacity that large industrial customers covet.

Irving's production processes for its paper and tissue consumer products require a large volume of water and significant sanitary sewer treatment. In addition, the Authority has accomplished and accredited water professionals and a reputation for

financial strength and environmental stewardship.

"The trust and confidence Irving has in our ability to meet the water and sewer needs of their facility is a credit to our outstanding employees," says Sam Hart, Chairman of the MWA Board. "This is another example of how we positively impact the economic development and quality of life in our community."

For the feature and photo gallery on the Irving announcement, check us out online at www.maconwater.org.



MWA Chairman Sam Hart (right) and President & Executive Director Tony Rojas (left) were on hand for the announcement that Irving Consumer Products will be locating in Macon-Bibb County.



Irving Consumer Products is one of the largest paper and tissue product producers in the world, and Macon-Bibb County will be the site of the company's second U.S. facility.



Gov. Nathan Deal (right) and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross were among the many dignitaries speaking at the announcement that Irving will be locating in Macon-Bibb County.

MWA Selected Among the Clean 13 in Georgia

The Georgia Water Coalition has released its 2017 Clean 13 Report and the MWA is among the list of organizations praised for environmental stewardship.

The Clean 13 is a list recognizing the extraordinary work accomplished by individuals, businesses, industries, non-profit organizations, as well as state and local governments, to protect Georgia's water.

Joining the MWA as a member of the state's Clean 13 are: The City of Atlanta, Cox Enterprises, Solar Crowdsource, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Ladybug Farms, Mark Masters, Chairman John Meadows, Scott Bridge Company, South Fork Conservancy, Storm Water Systems, and UPS.

The MWA was recognized specifically for its



The precautions and innovations used by the MWA during its pipe lining rehabilitation project along the Ocmulgee River garnered the Authority inclusion in this year's Clean 13 list of organizations going the extra mile to protect Georgia's water.

innovative pipe restoration capital project along the Ocmulgee River, which improved the quality of the sewer system while protecting the Ocmulgee River during construction, by avoiding damage to the banks of the river that traditional pipe replacement would have caused.

"The MWA went far beyond simply replacing old pipes along the Ocmulgee River; they were willing to invest in technology that will help provide the community with long-term functional water systems," says Jen Hilburn, Executive Director of the Altamaha Riverkeeper, who nominated the Authority for this recognition. "The MWA has embraced a long-term commitment to good water works that will continue to make them leaders in their field."

Think Twice Before Flushing Wet Wipes

While some wet wipes are marketed and sold to consumers as "flushable" items, don't believe it! Wet wipes actually are NOT flushable, because they do not "break up" like traditional toilet paper. They may flush, but they do not disintegrate as easily.

In fact, according to tests conducted by Consumer Reports, "flushable" wet wipes were still intact after 10 minutes following a simulated flushing.

As a result, Consumer Reports confirms what MWA Wastewater Plant Operators and



Line Crews have known all along – wet wipes are NOT flushable!

According to the Consumer Reports article on "Think twice about flushing wet wipes," the bottom line is this: "Treating soiled wet wipes like disposable diapers by tossing them in a lined wastebasket will definitely keep your drain and sewer pipes clear."

For a demonstration of how "flushable" wet wipes do not break apart, check out the Consumer Reports announcement at www.maconwater.org.

It's Never Too Early to Weatherize Your Pipes

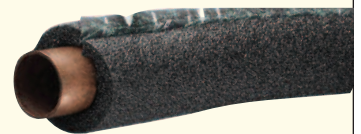
Weatherization tips may save you time and money by preventing unnecessary water loss and property damage due to busted water lines, especially those hidden within irrigation systems, when freezing temperatures arrive this winter.

- ✓ Tape or wrap exposed pipes with protective insulation.
- ✓ Insulate your water heater too, especially if it is in the garage.
- ✓ Drain your sprinkler system after watering for the last time.
- ✓ Drain all outdoor faucets as well, by turning off the shut-off valve and turning on the faucets to allow the water in the line(s) to drain

completely.

- ✓ Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor faucets and allow them to drain, too.
- ✓ Store garden hoses in warmer places during the winter.
- ✓ Always know how to shut off the main valve servicing your property, in the event a water leak or pipe burst causes flooding.

For additional tips, check out www.maconwater.org/winterization-tips.



SECOND FRONT

"Thank You" to Sponsors of Ocmulgee Alive!

Saturday Oct. 7, marked the 13th Annual Ocmulgee Alive! Macon's annual river cleanup is a success because of the generosity and volunteerism of event sponsors and participants. A special thank you from the Macon Water Authority (MWA) and its Macon Water Alliance goes to the following organizations:

In addition to the MWA and Macon Water Alliance, the sponsors of Ocmulgee Alive! include: **YKK USA · Graphic Packaging International · KaMin LLC · Macon-Bibb Parks & Beautification · NewTown**



Macon · Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful.

The additional participating organizations in this year's Ocmulgee Alive! include: **Altamaha Riverkeeper · Mount de Sales Academy · Tattnall Square Academy · Macon-Bibb County 4-H · Historic Riverside Cemetery Conservation · National Park Service/Ocmulgee National Monument.**

Check out our photo gallery from the 2017 Ocmulgee Alive! on our website at www.maconwater.org.

Hurricane Irma Required Emergency Preparedness

When Hurricane Irma evolved into a Tropical Storm that passed through Macon-Bibb County on Sept. 11-12, the MWA was ready.

"Our employees did an outstanding job preparing for the storm so we wouldn't experience

any major service interruptions," says MWA President & Executive Director Tony Rojas. "We saw a big return on our Board's investment in

quality infrastructure and preventative maintenance." Thanks to a Preventative Maintenance Program that includes continual testing of backup generators, the MWA was able to maintain operations through the storm. Only the Rocky Creek Water Reclamation Facility lost power temporarily, but with a second power

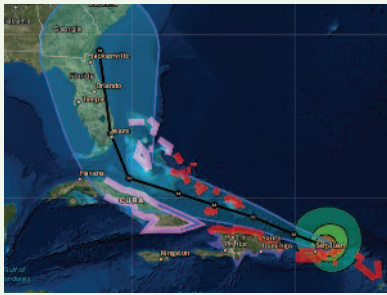
source to run the plant, treatment services were restored.

In preparing for Irma's arrival, the MWA had redundancies in place, not only with generators backing up for potential power loss, but personnel working overtime and

doubling up to make sure operations continued without incident. During the few occasions when lift stations in the field lost power, backup generators

continued sewer collection and conveyance.

"We had plant operators and mechanics who spent the night at our facilities, with contingencies in place to address any issues," adds Rojas. "While we had some minor incidents, service was quickly restored thanks to our collective efforts in emergency preparedness."



MWA Applauded for Excellence in Financial Reporting

During its September Board Meeting, the MWA recognized the Authority's Finance Department for receiving two industry honors from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The MWA has received both the Certificate of Achievement for

Financial Reporting and the award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting. The former recognizes the quality of the Authority's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

for FY 2016, while the latter recognizes the FY 2016 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR).

The MWA has received the Certificate of Achievement for its CAFR for 20 consecutive years, placing it among only 4.7% of eligible governments in the U.S. and Canada to receive this honor.

This year also marks the fifth straight year the MWA has been recognized with the Outstanding

Achievement Award for its PAFR. This award also is selective in nature, as less than 0.5% of all eligible governments in the U.S. received such recognition. In addition, the Authority is one of only 13 entities in Georgia to be

honored for its PAFR, and it's the only utility among that select group.



(L-R) Lisa Golphin, Rena Self, Margarita Gomes, Pauline Forbes, Doricale Smith, Accounting-Purchasing Manager Arleen Samuels, Mary Brezial, and MWA Executive VP of Business Operations Guy Boyle.

Imagine a Day Without Water

Imagine not having water to drink, to shower or brush your teeth, to flush the toilet, or prepare food? Without water, hospitals would have to close, firefighters couldn't fight fires, and farmers couldn't water their crops. A day without water is a day of crisis.

To raise awareness of the value of water and the importance of investing in water and sewer infrastructure, the water industry and communities throughout the country designated Oct. 12 for the third annual "Imagine a Day Without Water" campaign.

The MWA is similar to many large water systems in major metropolitan areas in that its infrastructure is aging and in need of reinvestments.

The MWA Board has approved the current five-year Capital Improvement Plan Budget for FY 2018-2022, which totals more than \$49.6 Million. Included in this total is approximately \$3.6 Million in Operating and Maintenance capital items and a little more than \$46 Million in Capital Reserve capital items. The former includes capital projects

less than \$50,000, while the latter includes the major projects that total more than that amount.

In addition to the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, the MWA is investing \$33 Million in upgrades and improvements to its two water reclamation facilities in order to maintain and support the infrastructure and mission of the Authority, which includes "providing quality water and sewer services for the enhancement of the quality of life for our customers and community."



Imagine a Day Without Water

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP

Sam Hart
Chairman
478.745.1675

Frank Patterson
Vice Chairman, District 4
478.808.2020

Dorothy 'Dot' Black
District 1
478.742.3503

Javors J. Lucas
District 2
478.742.2722

Dwight Jones
District 3
478.238.3770

Bert Bivins, III
Macon-Bibb
Representative
478.747.0580

Gary Bechtel
Macon-Bibb
Representative
478.955.5506

Tony Rojas
Executive Director/
President
478.464.5600



790 Second Street
P.O. Box 108
Macon, Ga., 31202-0108

478.464.5600 (M-F)
478.464.5656 (After Hours)
www.maconwater.org

