

Currents



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY

MWA Links Major Sewer Spill to Construction Debris

The 4-million-gallon sewer spill that occurred in late July provides the MWA with a prime example of the importance of protecting the sewer system from materials, debris, and items that can cause blockages that both impair sewer collection and threaten the environment and public health.

The Authority determined that the cause of this recent major sewer spill was construction debris forced down a manhole, which had been damaged by heavy equipment. MWA crews removed a number of things from the line, including a large piece of 8-inch PVC pipe, a coil of construction material, several very large rocks, and pieces of the broken manhole cover.

With the spill eliminated and the sewer line restored to full operation, the Authority now turns its attention to identifying the contractor(s) who damaged the manhole lid and put the

construction materials in the sewer line, says Tony Rojas, MWA President & Executive Director.

The MWA will be meeting with these contractors and others operating near major interceptors to discuss the

importance of protecting the integrity of the sewer system. Rojas says it's critical for them to keep construction materials out of manholes and sewer lines because these major sewer interceptors carry millions of gallons

of sewage each day to MWA treatment facilities.

"We can't eliminate all sewer spills, but this major spill was obviously preventable," says Rojas, who notes that stewardship is a core value of the MWA and the Authority is dedicated to protecting the environment and the Ocmulgee River."

"A blockage in one of these lines can quickly cause a major sewer spill in the millions of gallons, as we saw in this case," says Rojas, who also noted that individual citizens in Macon-Bibb County can do their part as well to protect the MWA sewer system.

Rojas would like to remind all MWA customers to help protect the environment by keeping fats, oils, and grease, as well as any other non-dispersible materials, out of the sewer system, to reduce the possibility of sewer line blockages and subsequent sewer spills and overflows.



MWA crews needed two days to remove this construction debris from a blocked sewer line. The Authority determined this caused a recent major sewer spill near the Ocmulgee River.

Nichiha Investing \$120 Million to Expand Macon-Bibb Facility

Gov. Nathan Deal recently announced that Nichiha Corporation will be investing approximately \$120 million to expand its facility in Macon-Bibb County, creating more than 70 new jobs, locally.

"We appreciate Nichiha's investment in Macon-Bibb County and look forward to the company's future growth and success in Georgia."

...Gov. Nathan Deal

The Nichiha expansion continues what has been an unprecedented run of success in economic development in the community, thanks to the work of

the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority and its partnerships with utilities and services such as the MWA.

"By expanding operations in Macon-Bibb County, (Nichiha) will utilize our strategic manufacturing resources and continue to hire from our deep talent pool to build upon its success," says Gov. Deal. "We appreciate Nichiha's investment in Macon-Bibb County and look forward to the company's future growth and success in Georgia."

Nichiha specializes in fiber cement products designed for interior and exterior commercial and residential applications. Headquartered in Japan, Nichiha has more than 13 facilities worldwide.

"Georgia has been our home for 20 years and we've had a presence in Macon for 11 years," says Yoichi Ichimura, CEO of Nichiha. "We are so pleased

to be expanding our manufacturing in Macon and creating more jobs and economic benefits for the area.



MWA Offers Credit/Debit Card Convenience

This payment option to include transaction fee

Effective August 1, 2018, the

Macon Water Authority (MWA) will add a convenience fee to all customer credit and debit card transactions.

The Authority will assess \$2.50 per transaction for residential customers paying their bill with a credit or debit card, with a \$500 limit per transaction. If bills are in excess of \$500, customers can pay by credit card, but it will require multiple transactions, with the appropriate fees applied.

Likewise, the MWA will charge 2.75% of the total transaction for non-residential customers who pay their bill with a credit/debit card. The MWA accepts VISA, MasterCard, and Discover.

The credit/debit card convenience fee does not apply to customer transactions made with other forms of payment, such as by cash, check,

money order, or if payments are made online or over the phone without the use of a card.

The convenience fee also is not applicable to automated transfer methods of payments to the



MWA from a customer's bank or financial institution. (Although, a customer's bank may have their own fees for such services.)

For more information on methods of payment available to MWA customers, please check out our website at www.maconwater.org, or contact a Customer Care Representative at 478-464-5600.

SECOND FRONT

Industry Awards Show That MWA is Among the Best of the Best

During the August meeting of the MWA, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) honored the Authority with numerous industry awards, presented by the trade association's Executive Director Pam Burnett.

As for Individual Awards, Jocelyn Hunt, MWA Director of Wastewater Operations, received the Silver Water Drop Award from the American Water Works Association (AWWA). This top honor recognizes water professionals with 25 years of cumulative membership in the Association.

In addition, Gary McCoy, MWA Director of Water Operations, received the GAWP President's Award for outstanding leadership and support of the Association and its water professionals.

During the GAWP Spring Conference, the Authority's Reggie Cooper was



GAWP Executive Director Pam Burnett (far left) presented Individual Awards to (left to right) Gary McCoy (GAWP President's Award), Jocelyn Hunt (AWWA Silver Water Drop Award), and Reggie Cooper (Golden Hydrant Society).

inducted into the inaugural class of the Golden Hydrant Society by the Georgia Section of the American Water Works

Association (GAWWA), a special honor society of professionals in the drinking water industry.

As for GAWP Facility Awards, Burnett recognized all three of the Authority's treatment plants with top honors.

The Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant received a Certificate of Achievement (Honorable Mention) for Best Operated Water Plant in Georgia and a Gold Award for achieving 100 percent permit compliance for the fourth consecutive year.

The MWA Rocky Creek Water Reclamation Facility received the Platinum Award for achieving 100 percent permit compliance for an impressive 19 straight years. Finally, the MWA Lower Poplar Water Reclamation Facility received a Gold Award for 100 percent permit compliance last year. Compliance at MWA facilities means they had no permit violations in treatment operations for those respective years.

MWA Expands Existing Infrastructure by Renovating the Roundtop Building

Some of you may be wondering about the on-going construction that is occurring at the MWA Albert Billingslea Administration Office on Second Street.

Well, we are pleased to announce that what we refer to as the "Roundtop Building" – the building to the right of the Pine Street entrance directly behind the main office – is undergoing major renovations. Those upgrades will provide enhanced operations and improved functionality to the 11,000-square-foot building that was constructed in the 1940's.

Over the past several decades, the MWA has continued to expand to accommodate the growth of our organization, which reflects the continual growth in our community. To date, this growth has required advancements in technology and the recruitment of skilled and knowledgeable staff.



As a result, the MWA has several departments outgrowing their existing areas.

So, with limited sites within the city block of its Second Street campus available for expansion, the Authority's leadership decided to redesign and redevelop its own headquarters to accommodate the MWA Human Resources and Engineering Departments.

The transition of these Departments to the Roundtop Building will provide the additional office space and extra resources necessary for the MWA Staff to more easily accommodate present and future growth of the organization.

The Roundtop Building will include a large-scale training/meeting facility, an outdoor greenspace area for recreational use, supplementary parking, as well as allow for the entire second floor of the headquarters to accommodate other Departmental use.

It's a Toilet, not a Trash Can!

Please do not flush:

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



Save the date: Oct. 13th for Ocmulgee Alive!

The MWA will be joining several sponsors and participating organizations for the 14th Annual Ocmulgee Alive! event on Saturday Oct. 13, 2018. Macon's annual river cleanup is affiliated with the statewide Rivers Alive campaign, which is a Georgia EPD Outreach Program.

Volunteers who do not have an assigned area to clean can meet at Amerson River Park at 8:15 a.m. on the morning of Oct. 13, and the cleanup should conclude by 11:30 a.m.

The theme of this year's Ocmulgee Alive! is "Clean Streets = Clean Streams = Clean Ocmulgee."

"The litter on our streets clogs storm drains, pollutes our streams, and eventually ends up in the Ocmulgee River," says Mark Wyzalek, MWA Director of Laboratory and Environmental Compliance, who organizes the annual Ocmulgee Alive! cleanup on behalf of the Authority. "The efforts of our volunteers will have a direct, positive impact on protecting the water quality in the Ocmulgee River."



Litter on the streets makes its way into storm drains, eventually polluting streams and rivers such as the Ocmulgee.

For more information, those interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Wyzalek at 478-464-5678 or [Ocmulgee Alive@maconwater.org](mailto:OcmulgeeAlive@maconwater.org).

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

Larry Schlesinger
Macon-Bibb
Representative
478.719.1257

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

