



# Currents



Tasting Water

News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

## Family continues to be the focus of MWA Kids Fishing Derby

What started as a simple attempt at public outreach and education has blossomed into an award-winning event. The Macon Water Authority (MWA) will be hosting its annual Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday June 2, at Javors Lucas Lake, hoping to break the attendance record set last year when the event won the state's Best Innovative Initiative in Public Education, as awarded by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP).

In a bit of a role reversal, anglers age 16 and under take part in the friendly competition at Javors Lucas Lake, as they cast their lines looking for the biggest catch of the day. Adults, on the other hand, are admitted only if accompanied by a child, though they also may fish for free, but in designated areas away from the competition. Participating kids must catch their own fish to enter into the Derby.

Academy Sports & Outdoors once again will be serving as the premier sponsor of the event, which last year



benefitted from nearly 80 additional organizations who made contributions to provide prizes for the winners, giveaways for those in attendance, and enjoyment for the entire family.

This year, the Kids Fishing Derby registration will open at 7:00 a.m., with the weigh-in for the competition beginning at 10:30 a.m., when the top three largest catches in four age group categories will be awarded



prizes, in addition to a grand prize for the biggest catch of the day by the overall winner. Lunch and refreshments also will be provided, and admission is free.

The annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby is held each year on one of the days that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) designates as a free fishing day, when anglers can fish Georgia waters without

a permit. Attendees must bring their own fishing poles, bait and tackle, and should access Lucas Lake via Broach Lane off of Upper River Road.

For more information on the 2012 Kids Fishing Derby, including features of Javors Lucas Lake – the Authority's drinking water reservoir – citizens can log onto our Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org), or contact us at 478-464-5650.

## MWA completes Water System Audit, begins development of Water Efficiency Program

*Georgia Environmental Protection Division applauds the MWA's efforts*

When the Macon Water Authority (MWA), under the guidance of professional consultants from Cavanaugh & Associates, completed its Water System Audit late last year, it marked the beginning rather than the end of the process to establish a Water Efficiency Program to benefit the utility and its customers.

With Phase I of the process finalized, the Authority has collected valuable data on its system to establish benchmarks for water efficient facilities

and operations according to industry standards. Officials at Cavanaugh & Associates note the first phase Audit identified opportunities where the Authority could make progress in system efficiency, while laying out a plan for a program to do so.

Phase II of the process involves the development of the Authority's Water Efficiency Program, with goals for specific water loss reductions. The Authority's program is focusing on a combination of real water loss and apparent water loss controls, while increasing the overall confidence in its data collection.

Apparent water losses occur due to unauthorized consumption, meter-

ing inaccuracies, and systematic data handling errors. Likewise, real water losses occur due to leakage on distribution mains, leakage and overflow at storage tanks, and leakage on service connections.

The MWA Water Efficiency Program will evolve over the next five years, with short-term, intermediate, and long-term objectives being pursued. A Water Efficiency Team is in place, consisting of a dozen or so MWA employees from all key departments. The team meets monthly to track and analyze water audit data collected to date, while reporting on progress and outlining



objectives for the future.

In February, the MWA submitted its Water Audit to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for its review. The state's regulatory agency applauded the Authority's work, noting that the MWA Water Audit was among the most thorough of those submitted by water

utilities throughout Georgia. EPD officials also asked to share the MWA Audit with other utilities to serve as an example of a model water audit that could be emulated.

For more information on the MWA Water Audit, log onto the Authority's Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org).



# SECOND FRONT

## MWA Chairman selected as Citizen of the Year

Congratulations are due for MWA Chairman Frank C. Amerson, Jr. for receiving the Citizen of the Year Award from the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce during its 151st Annual Meeting.

Mr. Amerson has an impressive résumé as a community leader in economic development, as well as being respected for his leadership and vision as MWA Chairman. He has been instrumental in expanding system capacity to accommodate quality growth, as well as planning the construction of the reservoir and the water treatment plant, the majority of which was financed with federal funding that he helped to secure. In 2009, he received the Chamber's Economic Development Lifetime Achievement Award, at which time the Authority also received



an Economic Development Champion Award.

Frank Amerson joined the Macon Water Authority in 1976. As a testament to his life-long commitment to the Authority and community, the MWA's water treatment plant and the community's Water Works Park both bear his name.

Mr. Amerson's public service, in addition to being elected county-wide as Chairman of the MWA over the past 35 years, includes previous service on the State Board of Industry and Trade, which is now referred to as the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Currently, he serves on the Boards of the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority and the Macon Economic Development Commission.

## MWA customers enjoying relaxed Outdoor Water Use Schedule

Because of proper long-term planning by the Macon Water Authority, customers can enjoy a more relaxed outdoor watering schedule, without the MWA imposing additional restrictions on the state's Water Stewardship Act, which has been in effect since June of 2010.

Until further notice, MWA customers can water outdoor landscapes every day from midnight to 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to midnight, as permitted by the current Water Stewardship Act. This daily watering is allowed for planting, growing, managing, or maintaining ground cover, trees, shrubs, or other plants.

MWA customers should note that these morning and evening hours for daily watering of landscapes are the best times of the day for such outdoor water use, since watering during the hotter, mid-day hours increases the chances for evaporation.

MWA customers also are reminded that the 2012 schedule of rates and fees included a small percentage increase to water and sewer consumption charges,



which may become more evident with increased outdoor water use. These variable rates for both water and sewer consumption increased by 10 cents this year. However, residential sewer customers without an irrigation meter will pay variable sewer rates on only 80 percent of their water consumption, and these sewer consumption charges will be capped at 30 CCF.

The MWA benefits from the nearly 600-acre drinking water reservoir – Javors Lucas Lake – which provides

approximately 5.9 billion gallons of raw water storage for producing clean, safe drinking water at the Authority's Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Facility. The Amerson Plant has been selected as the state's Plant of the Year, as awarded by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, on three occasions.

For more information on the current outdoor watering schedule and permitted daily uses, link to the Outdoor Water Use page at [www.gaepd.org](http://www.gaepd.org).

## MWA not affiliated with direct mail marketing solicitations

Macon Water Authority (MWA) customers sometimes receive solicitations that promote products or services related to the water or sewer industry. As a result, the Authority urges customers to consider such direct mail or door-to-door sales and marketing tools on their own merit, and proceed while noting that the Authority does not typically endorse or partner with such organizations to support their efforts.

One such incident involves a direct mail piece from American Water Resources, which some MWA customers may be receiving in the near future, if they have not received it already. The products or services offered by American Water Resources are not affiliated with the Macon Water Authority, so the Authority neither recommends nor cautions against their use by Macon and Bibb County homeowners.

In the case of this mailing from American Water Resources, the company will be informing MWA customers that they are responsible for the water and sewer lines running through their property, in an attempt to offer Water and Sewer Line Protection Programs. MWA customers should note that the mailing should not suggest these programs are offered or endorsed by the MWA.

Should the MWA send direct mail to its customers, it will come as official correspondence from the utility. And should MWA employees in the field approach a customer's residence or business on official business, they will be clearly identified with a stated purpose.

For more information on direct mail or door-to-door solicitations that may appear to impact your water or sewer services provided by the MWA, contact our Customer Care Department at 478-464-5600.

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