

July - August
2012

America's Best



Currents



Tasting Water

News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

Macon Water Authority contributing to quality economic growth

Funding provides sites for industrial prospects

When the Macon Water Authority (MWA) welcomes Tractor Supply as its newest industrial customer following the Company's completion of a \$50 million distribution center at the I-75 Business Park at Hartley Bridge Road, it will be the culmination of years of preparation and teamwork among a number of Authority partners.



The I-75 Business Park (above) will be the home of Tractor Supply Company's Distribution Center, thanks in part to MWA investments in such industrial sites and improvements to its system (below).

"On behalf of my fellow Board Members at the Macon Water Authority, we want to welcome Tractor Supply Company as our newest corporate citizen and thank them for their confidence in our community," says Frank Amerson, Chairman of the MWA Board. "Their investment will create 200 jobs, further strengthen our local economy, and benefit the Water Authority and its customers. The Macon Water Authority was proud to partner with the Bibb County Commission to provide incentives that assisted the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority (MBCIA) and the Macon Economic Development Commission (MEDC) in landing the Tractor Supply Company Distribution Center. We also appreciate the commitment the School Board has made to Tractor Supply as well."

Tractor Supply Company will be building a 650,000 square-foot distribution center, scheduled for completion by the end of 2013 at the I-75 Business Park, on a site where MWA officials envisioned such large commercial customers would locate. The I-75 Business Park is a joint development of the MWA and the MBCIA. Officials from Tractor Supply said the site was the "ideal location" for their Southeast distribution center, which will be the company's second largest and most advanced in terms of technology for logistics. Tractor Supply has plans to add 95 new stores to its farm and ranch store chain next year, which

will accompany its 1,100 stores within 44 states, nationwide.

One of the major factors that made it possible to bring Tractor Supply to Bibb County was the Macon Water Authority's long-term investment in land and infrastructure to develop the I-75 Business Park. Industrial sites such as this are funded by MWA appropriations of more than \$700,000 annually into a revolving fund, for economic development purposes.

The I-75 Business Park and the Sofkee Industrial Park serve as examples of MWA-backed economic development sites that the MBCIA and the MEDC can use to attract business and industry to the region. The I-75 Business Park operations of Sara Lee and now Tractor Supply serve as prime examples of the fruits of years of labor, visionary planning, and long-term financing by the MWA.

When Water Authority Chairman Frank Amerson served on the state Board of Industry and Trade (now referred to as the Georgia Department of Economic Development) years ago, he recognized that in order for Bibb County to be successful in attracting industrial prospects such as Tractor Supply, the community needed fully developed, more economically advantageous industrial sites. Since Bibb County had no such sites at that time, Amerson set the MWA on a course that would establish a legal funding mechanism for investing in economic development and forge intergovernmental agreements that could lead to the development of industrial sites within the County.

Thanks to that vision, the MWA and its customers can take pride in the successful recruitment of Tractor Supply Company to the community.

"Other than my service on the Macon Water Authority, economic development has been my greatest passion," adds Amerson. "Announcements such as the one made recently by Tractor Supply are extremely gratifying. I am proud that the Water Authority Board plays such a pivotal role in Macon and Bibb County's economic development efforts."



MWA among many set to host eighth annual Ocmulgee Alive!

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) and a number of local sponsors and organizers will be hosting the eighth annual Ocmulgee Alive! on Saturday Oct. 13, 2012, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The event is held in conjunction with the statewide Rivers Alive campaign, a Georgia EPD Adopt-A-Stream program designed to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's waterways. Last year, Macon's annual river cleanup featured 345 volunteers, and organizers hope to break that record this year.

Primary sponsors of the event again will be YKK USA and Graphic Packaging International, with assistance provided by organizers such as the Ocmulgee Heritage

Trail, Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful, the Ocmulgee River Initiative, the Georgia Wilderness Society, and others, in addition to the MWA.

Volunteers are asked to meet that Saturday morning Oct. 13, at Rotary Park on Riverside Drive near First Street. Those taking part in the river cleanup should wear boots or similar sturdy footwear, long pants and a long-sleeved shirt, a hat and sun-screen, and bring heavy duty work gloves, insect repellent, water, and a tool to pick up trash.

A free event t-shirt will be provided for volunteers who pre-register for Ocmulgee Alive! For more information, including a copy of the medical release and



liability waiver that accompanies registration, log onto the MWA Web site at www.maconwater.org or contact the Authority's Mark Wyzalek at 478-464-5678.

SECOND FRONT

MWA Kids Fishing Derby success reflected in record numbers

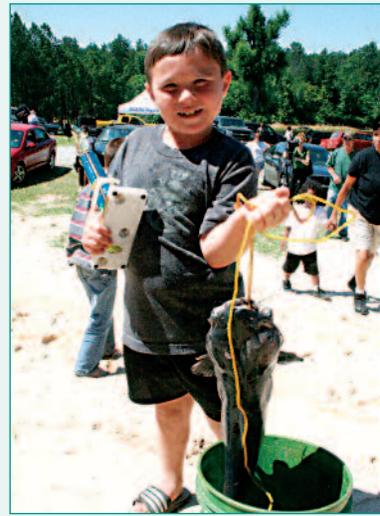
When seven-year-old Carter Collins held up his award-winning “Biggest Catch of the Day” at the conclusion of the 2012 MWA Kids Fishing Derby, the 7.2-pound catfish was as big as he was, and indicative of the size and scope of this record-setting event held at the Authority’s Javors Lucas Lake.

A registered 415 participants ranging in age from 3 to 16 were accompanied by adults, with estimated attendance eclipsing 800, easily breaking last year’s record. In addition to Academy Sports + Outdoors, another 130 sponsors provided gifts and support for the event, while 35 MWA employees, retirees, and board members served as volunteers.

The Authority awarded winners of the 2012 Fishing Derby in four age group

categories. In the age 3 to 5 category, Ivan Stewart won first place, followed by Mandela Williams in second and Natavious Simmons in third. In the 6 to 9 age group, Carter Collins, who also won the Biggest Catch of the Day, finished in first place, followed by Chase Baughman in second and Fletcher Randolph in third. In the age 10 to 13 category, Calvin Brown finished in first, followed by Jybrant Thomas in second and Cameron Collins – Carter’s older brother – in third. Finally, in the 14 to 16 age group, Terrence Robertson finished in first, followed by Adam Sutton in second and Cole Hughes in third.

For photos and more coverage of the 2012 MWA Kids Fishing Derby, log onto our Web site at www.maconwater.org.



Carter Collins, 7, shows off his Biggest Catch of the Day – a seven-pound catfish – which was good enough to win the 2012 MWA Kids Fishing Derby.

MWA asks customers to protect our water resources by not disposing of waste down storm drains

The Macon Water Authority, with help from the City of Macon, Bibb County, and the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission, reminds customers that whatever they dump into our storm drains ends up in our rivers. So please do not use our storm drains for waste disposal.

The most common abuse of public storm drains occurs when residents or landscapers use them for getting rid of Yard Debris or Fertilizers, or when citizens pour used motor oil or antifreeze down them after working on their cars. Please do not use storm drains to dispose of these items or other potentially harmful pollutants, such as plastic, Styrofoam, paints, solvents, moth balls,

drain or oven cleaners, or pesticides.

Such contaminants are considered non-point source (NPS) pollutants, which can be reduced or eliminated when we recycle or properly dispose of our household waste.

To report dumping problems, or for more information on how you can help prevent non-point source pollution, residents of both the city and the county can contact Bibb County Engineering at 478-621-6660.

To learn more about how the MWA protects the sources of our drinking water, contact Mark Wyzalek, MWA Director of Laboratory and Environmental Compliance, at 478-464-5678.

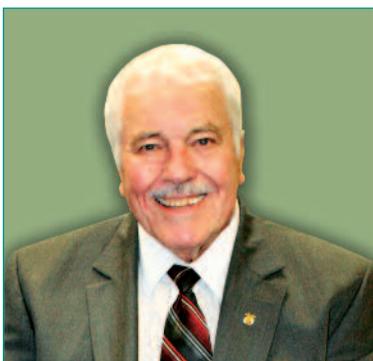
MWA customers can now receive an e-bill

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) is offering its customers the option to obtain their water and sewer bills electronically. This new e-bill service entails receiving your monthly bill via an email attachment. Customers can choose to receive only an e-bill, or you can get an e-bill in addition to getting a printed bill in the mail.

To sign up for e-bill service, MWA customers can go to the billing inquiry page link on the Authority Web site at www.maconwater.org, and log on to their account. From there, you can ask to sign up for an e-bill. Customers who select yes (or no) for an e-bill can also select yes or no on whether to receive a paper bill as well.

For more information, or for assistance in signing up for e-bill service, MWA customers can contact the Authority’s Customer Care representatives at 478-464-5600.

MWA Board Member a Hall of Fame sports enthusiast



Congratulations are extended to MWA Board Member and Macon City Councilman Ed DeFore, Sr. for receiving the 2012 Erk Russell Spirit Award from the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Foundation, an honor recognizing his “numerous contributions and unfailing dedication to sports in Macon and Middle Georgia.” DeFore was elected to the Macon Sports Hall of Fame in 2002.

DeFore has dedicated his life to youth sports. As evidence, he helped in the planning and funding for three area little league parks, as well as for renovations at Luther Williams Field and Bowden Golf Course. He spearheaded efforts to bring Middle Georgia its

first Miracle League field for children with disabilities. To commemorate his support of student athletes, the sports complex in West Macon bears his name. In addition, DeFore has coached Little League and Pony League teams for many years, after his playing days were over as a professional baseball minor leaguer and basketball state champion at Lanier High in 1950.

DeFore has served on the Macon City Council for more than 41 years, in addition to previously serving on the Bibb County School Board.

For more information on Ed DeFore or other MWA Board Members, log onto www.maconwater.org.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP

Frank C. Amerson, Jr.
Chairman, County-wide
478.745.3003

Javors J. Lucas
Vice Chairman, District 2
478.742.2722

Dorothy ‘Dot’ Black
District 1
478.742.3503

Steve Rickman
District 3
478.743.0056

Frank Patterson
District 4
478.808.2020

Bert Bivins, III
Bibb County
Representative
478.738.9466

Ed DeFore
City of Macon
Representative
478.474.0754

Tony Rojas
Executive Director
478.464.5622



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

478.464.5600 (M-F)
478.464.5656
(After Hours)
478.750.2007 (Fax)