



# Currents



Tasting Water

News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

## Kirby Godsey sworn in as MWA Chairman

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) welcomed R. Kirby Godsey, Ph.D., as its new Chairman, following his swearing in at the November Meeting.

The Hon. William J. Self, Judge of the Bibb County Probate Court, administered the oath of office after appointing Dr. Godsey, with unanimous support from the MWA Board, to follow Frank Amerson as Chairman. After leading the MWA for 35 years, Amerson passed away on Sept. 14, following complications from surgery at The Medical Center of Central Georgia.

Dr. Godsey is the former President and CEO of Mercer University, where he continues to serve as Chancellor and



The Hon. William J. Self (left), Judge of the Bibb County Probate Court, administers the oath of office to MWA Chairman Kirby Godsey during the November Authority Meeting.

University Professor as a result of an appointment by the University's Board of Trustees in 2006. According to University officials, Mercer experienced its most significant growth in size and prominence during Dr. Godsey's 27 years of leadership as President.

As a tribute to former Chairman Amerson, Dr. Godsey announced that he will donate his salary while serving as MWA Chairman to NewTown Macon, a local non-profit organization, for future enhancements to Amerson River Park – fittingly named for the late MWA Chairman.

For the complete story and bio on Dr. Godsey, check out our Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org).

## MWA reaches the gold standard

*Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies recognizes the utility for exceptional performance*

Many utilities aspire to a gold standard that is indicative of organizational excellence, but the Macon Water Authority (MWA) actually has achieved such a mark.

The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) has honored the MWA with its Gold Award this year for exceptional utility performance. The MWA's Gold Award from the AMWA marks only the fourth time a water utility from the state of Georgia has

received this prestigious national honor, which puts the Authority in select company.

The AMWA Gold Award was created in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other water industry professional associations. These industry organizations identified distinct, effective management practices necessary for water utilities to achieve long-term sustainability.

To receive the AMWA Gold Award, the MWA attained the required 10 attributes of Effectively Managed Utilities, as well as the five Keys to Management Success. These criteria not only focus on the financial and operational goals of a utility, but all

significant aspects of water and wastewater utility management.

During the Gold Award evaluation process, the MWA was praised for being a progressive and community-centered partner with residents and businesses.

In addition, the MWA was applauded for revamping its Customer Care and Field Services Departments, for voluntarily developing a watershed protection plan, and for its proactive role in regional planning, both economic and environmental.

Furthermore, AMWA officials noted the MWA's progressive approach to asset management, including a full mapping of assets through a GIS focus, as well as the utility's prac-



(L to R) Receiving the AMWA Gold Award on behalf of the MWA include: (L to R): Gary McCoy, Director of Water Treatment, Blaine Harrell, Macon Soils Manager, Kate Kubesheski, Assistant Manager of Wastewater, Tony Rojas, Executive Director, Michel Wanna, Director of Field Operations, and Kirk Nylund, Director of Customer Care.

tices of valve exercising, manhole rehabilitation, and meter replacement.

Finally, the AMWA applauded the MWA for its long-range water audit program, its strong financial stewardship and planning, as

well as its annual financial support for the Macon/Bibb County Industrial Authority.

For the complete story on the AMWA Gold Award, log onto our Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org).

## Water Assistance Program reflects the holiday season of giving

MWA customers who are in the spirit of giving during this holiday season may want to consider participating in the Water Assistance Program.

A diagram featured on the newly designed MWA customer bills, located on the right side of the pay stub, allows customers to make a contribution to the Water Assistance Program to help fellow citizens with utility payments.

Customers can specify a donation to this

fund of \$1, \$3, \$7, \$9, or any other amount. The MWA then sends these contributions to the Bibb County Division of Family and Children Services for disbursement.

MWA customers can make a one-time contribution, or check one of the boxes each month and even vary the level of contribution from month to month. In order to make a contribution to the Water Assistance Program, MWA customers must check one of the boxes

and then add that amount to the final bill.

For example, if your total bill is \$25.46 and you check the box to contribute \$7 to the Water Assistance Program, then your payment would need to add the contribution to the total amount due, which in this case would be \$32.46.

For more information on the MWA Water Assistance Program, contact a Customer Care Representative at 478-464-5600.

# SECOND FRONT

## MWA hosts record breaking Ocmulgee Alive!

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) and its partners hosted a record-breaking river cleanup this year, as 355 volunteers collected 710 bags of trash and 10,650 pounds of debris, after cleaning 2 miles of river bank and nearby streams during the 2012 Ocmulgee Alive!

The number of volunteers at this eighth annual event eclipsed the previous record of 345 attendees last year. Once again, the MWA was joined by corporate sponsors YKK USA and Graphic Packaging International, in addition to Coca-Cola Refreshments. Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful and the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail also assisted in organizing Macon's annual river cleanup.

Other participating



**(Left to Right) Student volunteers during Macon's annual river cleanup included: Savon Hollimon, Mike Land, Tyler Bagwell, Conor Wainwright, Hunter Stringer, Candace Bridges, Annie Vogel, and Courtney Holt, along with Mark Wyzalek, event organizer from the MWA for the 2012 Ocmulgee Alive!**

organizations at this year's event included: the Georgia Wilderness Society, Mount de Sales Academy, the National Park Service/Ocmulgee National Monument, the Ocmulgee River Initiative, Mercer University, Historic Riverside Cemetery

Conservancy, Tattnall Square Academy, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service/Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Log onto our Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org) for the complete news story and photo gallery from this year's Ocmulgee Alive!



**(Left to Right) Bernadine Taylor, Kendra Johnson, Mattie Jones, and Deborah Williams joined forces to cleanup areas along the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail during the 2012 Ocmulgee Alive!**



**Tammy and Paul Nipper roll up their sleeves and navigate nearby streams for cleanup efforts during the 2012 Ocmulgee Alive!**

## MWA customers needed to help address sewer spills and overflows

### *Please don't pour grease down the sink*

With the majority of sewer spills and overflows caused by grease, the Macon Water Authority (MWA) is asking for the help of its customers to prevent or at least reduce these incidents, which threaten public health and the environment, as well as the Authority's sewer system and the plumbing of customers.

To keep sewer spills and overflows from occurring, the Authority is asking its customers to "think, before pouring grease down the sink," especially during the holiday season after those enjoyable home-cooked meals.

When grease is poured down the drain, it can harden and

subsequently clog the plumbing of a customer home or business, not to mention sewer lines within the MWA system. A sewer spill or overflow also can harm the environment when this untreated wastewater flows into local rivers and streams.

Please do not pour grease down your drain. Instead, let it cool, pour it into a sealed container, and throw the container in the trash. The Authority has a limited number of grease can covers that are available for free, to make this easier for you.

For more information on how you can prevent sewer spills and overflows, contact a Customer Care Representative at 478-464-5600, or log onto our Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org).

## Protect your pipes from freezing

As MWA customers anticipate falling temperatures during the upcoming winter months, they also should take precautions to winterize their outdoor pipes and irrigation systems, to save time, money, and water later.

According to the UGA Extension Service, to prevent exposed valves or pipes (as well as the irrigation systems of homes or businesses) from freezing, consider these tips:

- Tape your pipes with appropriate tapes, foams, or similar products.
- Wrap pipes, if possible, with a sack or protective material.
- Drain your sprinkler system, as the tips of sprinkler heads and the entire sprinkler system often continue to hold water, even when inactive. (Look for a drain valve on homes with pre-installed systems.)
- Disconnect garden hoses from all outdoor water faucets,

allowing water to drain from frost free faucets.

- After disconnecting and draining garden hoses, store them in a place with warmer temperatures.
- If a faucet is not frost free, find the shut-off valve in the basement or crawl space where the pipe feeds the faucet going to the outside of the home or building. Shut off the valve feeding this outdoor line, and afterward, open the outside faucet to make sure it drains completely.

Should a pipe burst due to freezing or under any other circumstances, always know how to shut off your main water line servicing your home or building.

For more information on winterization, contact a Customer Care Representative at 478-464-5600, or log onto our Web site at [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org).

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP

R. Kirby Godsey  
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478.745.3003

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Vice Chairman, District 2  
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Dorothy 'Dot' Black  
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478.742.3503

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Frank Patterson  
District 4  
478.808.2020

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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)