

Currents



Tasting Water



News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

MWA asking its customers to think before pouring grease down the sink

Customer help needed to reduce sewer spills and overflows

According to historical industry data, approximately half of sewer spills and overflows are caused by improper grease disposal. But officials at the Macon Water Authority (MWA) say that figure has risen recently to nearly 75 percent within portions of its sewer system.

When grease is poured down customer drains, it enters the Authority's sewer system, where it eventually clogs sewer lines and causes spills and

overflows. So, the MWA is asking its customers to "think, before pouring grease down the sink." Customers should instead let grease cool, and then pour it into a container to throw away in the trash.

Fats, oils, and grease not only damage the MWA sewer system, but they damage a customer's home plumbing as well. MWA customers can help protect their plumbing, the Authority's sewer infrastructure, and the environment, by not

pouring grease down the drain, and by being careful in their use of garbage disposals as well. It's not just grease used for cooking, but fats, oils and grease within food that can contribute to sewer spills and overflows, too.

"The number of sewer spills and overflows we've experienced in portions of our system recently has been on the rise, and most can be traced back to excessive disposal of grease down the sink by residents," says Heather Veal, CMOM Coordinator for the MWA. "The majority of spills and overflows are occurring in areas

where our sewer collection system serves older neighborhoods and multi-family apartment homes."

Veal notes that the MWA experienced more sewer spills and overflows due to grease within its system during the 2010 calendar year, than it did during 2009.

"We have increased our efforts in sewer line maintenance to clean more aggressively in some hot spots of the system, but residential customers can always help us by properly disposing of their household grease."

The Macon Water Authority has a limited number of grease



The MWA has grease can covers available for customers to help them properly dispose of household grease, which in turn helps to prevent sewer spills and overflows within the MWA system.

can covers available for customers to help them properly dispose of household grease. For more information, contact the Authority at 478-464-5620, or log onto www.maconwater.org.

MWA making progress on system capital improvements

Elevated water tanks and pump stations highlight infrastructure upgrades

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) is moving forward on a number of capital improvement projects to enhance water distribution and sewer collection services.



The MWA is investing more than \$23.6 million in current and ongoing water construction and maintenance projects for its system.

Skipper Road Pump Station

One such project is the installation of a water booster pump station on Skipper Road. The Authority is investing approximately \$1.1 million for this project, which will improve system performance for customers at Hartley Station and surrounding areas. This new pump station will draw water from the Reuben Pump Station to supply water for the new Hartley Bridge Road Water Tank.

laid for the new Hartley Bridge Road Elevated Water Tank – a 1 million gallon elevated tank needed to serve the increased development in this area that warrants additional supply, as well as to enhance water service and fire protection. The MWA has budgeted approximately \$2.1 million for the project.

Sofkee Industrial Park Elevated Water Tank

Another elevated water tank is under construction at



the Sofkee Industrial Park. The MWA is investing more than \$1.4 million to build this 500,000 gallon water tank, which will provide added supply, in addition to improved water pressure and fire protection, to accommodate growth within this area.

Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) Pumps for Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Plant

Finally, the MWA is in the midst of a project to install Variable Frequency Drives



(VFD) on two pumps at the Amerson Plant's intake structure, so the Authority will be able to more efficiently manage withdrawal of raw water from the Ocmulgee during low river levels.

In all, the Authority is investing more than \$23.6 million in current and ongoing water construction and maintenance projects for its system.

For more information on MWA projects, log onto www.maconwater.org.

Hartley Bridge Road Elevated Water Tank

The foundation is being

SECOND FRONT

MWA Public Fishing Season set to begin March 4

The public fishing season at the Macon Water Authority's (MWA) Javors Lucas Lake begins March 4, when local anglers will have access to the drinking water reservoir for the first time this year. The 2011 public fishing schedule at Javors Lucas Lake is as follows:

From March 4 through March 27, the reservoir will be open three days per week on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

From March 31 to May 29, Lucas Lake will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. four



days per week, adding Thursdays to the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday fishing schedule during the months of April and May.

From June 3 to June 26, the MWA fishing schedule resumes to

three days per week, when the reservoir will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, again from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Javors Lucas Lake will be closed from June 27 to Sept. 1, but will re-open on



Sept. 2. From Sept. 2 through Oct. 30, the reservoir will be open three days per week – Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays – from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fishing at Javors

Lucas Lake also will be available to the public on the Monday holidays of Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day, as well.

The daily parking fees for fishing at Javors Lucas Lake are \$5.00 for those fishing from the shore and \$10 for those using a boat. No gas powered boats are allowed on the Authority's drinking water reservoir. A season pass is available for \$100.

More details on public fishing at Javors Lucas Lake, including rules and regulations, driving directions and more, are available on the MWA Web site at www.maconwater.org.

MWA employee recognized as a leader within the state's wastewater collection industry

One of the MWA's own has been inducted into the Georgia Golden Manhole Society, which is among the highest honors available to professionals working in the wastewater field.

Heather Veal oversees the Authority's Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) system as CMOM Coordinator.

"Heather's work is invaluable in helping us properly maintain our wastewater collection system, reduce sewer spills and overflows, and assure our customers have the best possible services," says Darryl Macy, sewer conveyance and water distribution manager for the MWA.

The Golden Manhole Society was founded in 2003, to

promote pride and professionalism in wastewater collection system operations through the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) and the Georgia section of the national Water Environment Federation (GWEF).

Golden Manhole Society members must have demonstrated outstanding achievement in the operation, maintenance, design, construction, management, planning, education, training, or certification of collection systems, in addition to having made significant voluntary professional contributions to the GAWP and GWEF.

As a reflection of the quality of work provided by Veal and others, the MWA has twice been selected by the GAWP as the Collection System of the Year in Georgia.



Darryl Macy (right), sewer conveyance and water distribution manager for the MWA, presents Heather Veal, CMOM coordinator for the MWA, with a certificate reflecting her induction into the 2010 class of the Georgia Golden Manhole Society.

Intergovernmental Business Opportunity Center has MWA support

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) is one of a handful of governments investing \$40,000 to establish an Intergovernmental Business Opportunity Center (IBOC) locally. The expected contributors to the IBOC, in addition to the MWA, are the City of Macon, Bibb County Government, the Macon Housing Authority, and possibly others.

The intent of the IBOC is to assist small businesses, including those that are minority and women owned, with navigating the potentially intimidating process of doing business with these participating governments. Locally owned companies and their skilled craftsmen often are underutilized in providing professional services on government projects.

In addition, by encouraging local companies to do business with local governments, the IBOC will directly facilitate economic development in Macon and Bibb County, while subsequently stimulating the local economy.

The IBOC would serve as a coordinating clearinghouse, providing a "one stop" shop for local businesses to receive government bid information.

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