



Currents



Tasting Water

News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

MWA Board starts New Year with swearing in of two re-elected Members

Macon Water Authority (MWA) Members Javors J. Lucas and Steve Rickman were sworn into office at the Authority Headquarters on Jan. 10, following their successful bids for re-election this past November. Lucas begins his sixth term on the MWA Board this year, with more than 31 years of experience representing District 2. Rickman returns for a second term, representing District 3 since 2007.

In addition to serving on the MWA Board and various Authority Committees together, the two men also share an interest in volunteering for the Annual Kids Fishing Derby, held each June at the MWA reservoir that now bears Mr. Lucas' name. Javors Lucas Lake is but one of many lasting impressions the longest-tenured Member of the Authority has left on his community.

Javors J. Lucas was born and raised in Macon, attended school at Tuskegee University in Alabama, and served during World War II in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater. He returned to Macon following the War to serve as an aircraft woodworker and sign painter for the U.S. Air Force at Robins Air Force Base. Utilizing this professional experience, he later established his own business – Lucas Signs in Macon.



Javors J. Lucas (right) was sworn into office by the Hon. Judge Sarah S. Harris (left) for his sixth term as an elected Member of the Authority. Lucas has served more than 31 years, representing District 2. To honor his service, the MWA reservoir bears his name.

Steve Rickman has more than 35 years of experience in real estate and property management. He began his real estate career in 1976, when he went to work for Fickling & Walker Development Company. Today, he is the President and Owner of Heritage Realty, where he and his staff manage hundreds of properties locally for investors, including multi-family complexes



The Hon. Sarah S. Harris, Judge of the Bibb County Probate Court, administers the oath of office to MWA Board Member Steve Rickman on Jan. 10, 2013 at the Water Authority headquarters. Rickman returns to office for a second term, representing District 3.

and single-family residences. Rickman is an advocate of smart, quality growth, dedicated to making Macon and Bibb County – including the Water Authority – attractive for investors seeking to develop property within the community.

For more information on the MWA Board and profiles of Authority Members, log onto our Web site at www.maconwater.org.

SYSTEM AWARDS AND EMPLOYEE ACCOLADES

MWA receives industry honors for best lab, sewer collection system, and top financial report

Officials from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) presented the MWA with two honors during the December Authority Board Meeting – the prestigious Gold Award for Collection System Excellence and the state's Lab of the Year Award.

The Collection System Gold Award recognizes those utilities that strive to continually improve their sewer systems through proper management, maintenance, and operations. To obtain the GOLD Award, the Authority had to score higher than 95% on its system audit conducted by GAWP judges.

The Authority also won the GAWP award for its Amerson Plant having the best lab for a water treatment plant in the state, among those facilities serving more than 100,000 customers. This was the first time the Amerson Plant laboratory has received this award.

Also during the December



The Authority's Darryl Macy (center) receives the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Collection System Gold Award on behalf of the MWA from GAWP Deputy Director Pam Burnett (left) and GAWP Executive Director Jack Dozier.

meeting, MWA Chief Financial Officer Guy Boyle announced the Authority had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). This marks the 15th consecutive year the MWA has received this distinction.

Authority's most recent retirees honored for nearly 40 years of service

Randy Smith brought extensive work experience from the private sector to his job as Project Manager for the MWA. He was the Authority's first Project Manager, and he set the standard for managing projects that totaled millions of dollars. He has retired from the Authority after serving 10 years in this capacity, providing a calm demeanor and professionalism that will be sorely missed, says MWA Executive Director Tony Rojas.

Joining Smith as the latest MWA retiree is Sheila Yvette Love-Lee, who was honored recently for her 29 years of service. Ms. Love-Lee retired as the Administrative Assistant for the Field Services Department. She had worked previously as a dispatcher, fielding customer calls that included reports of leaks or other issues within the MWA system. Ms. Love-Lee also served 23 years as one of three employee



The Macon Water Authority's Randy Smith (left), Project Manager, and Sheila Yvette Love-Lee, Administrative Assistant for the Field Services Department, have retired with approximately 40 years of combined work experience at the Authority. Smith was the Authority's first full-time Project Manager, while Love-Lee served 23 years on the Authority's Pension Committee.

members of the Authority's Pension Committee. This is a reflection of the tremendous amount of trust and respect she garnered from her fellow employees through the years, says Rojas.

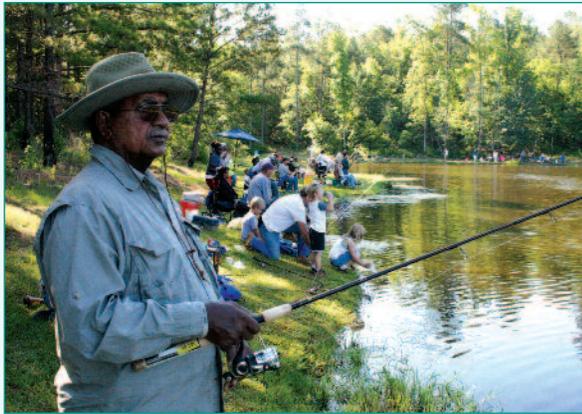
SECOND FRONT

MWA public fishing season opens March 1

The Outdoor Recreation Committee of the Macon Water Authority (MWA) has released the public fishing schedule at Javors Lucas Lake for the 2013 season, which begins the weekend of March 1.

The main changes in the MWA fishing schedule this year as compared to last are: (1) Javors Lucas Lake will be open only on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays throughout the entire season, and (2) the lake will not be open on the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holidays.

When Javors Lucas



Javors Lucas Lake will be open for public fishing beginning the first weekend in March, which is the start of the 2013 fishing season at the MWA reservoir.

Lake opens on March 1, Sunday), from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., until the end of June. Lucas

Lake will be closed during the months of July and August. However, the reservoir will reopen on Friday, September 6, and remain open on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., through October 27, which is the last day of the 2013 MWA fishing season.

Rates for parking for fishing at Javors Lucas Lake remain unchanged – \$5 to fish from the banks, \$10 for boats, or \$100 for a season pass. Only electric/trolling motors are allowed on the reservoir. Fishing

tournaments or group outings are welcomed at Javors Lucas Lake.

All guests fishing Javors Lucas Lake must adhere to the rules and regulations for the reservoir and for fishing Georgia waters. The Authority reserves the right to close the reservoir for fishing without notice in the event of wind or storm warnings or for maintenance.

For more information on fishing at Javors Lucas Lake, anglers can contact the Authority at 478-464-5653, or log onto the MWA Web site at www.maconwater.org.

MWA Employee of the Year works to keep sewer system clean

The MWA selected Heather Veal, CMOM Coordinator, as its Employee of the Year in 2012 because of her hard work, dedication, reliability, and innovativeness. She brings those attributes to her recently expanded role of overseeing grease education for MWA customers.

Heather joined the Authority in December of 2004, first working in the laboratory for environmental compliance prior to being promoted to CMOM (Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance) Program Coordinator.

The work of Heather and many of her

fellow employees at the MWA helps to reduce sanitary sewer overflows and spills. Late last year, she was put in charge of the Authority's grease education initiative targeting MWA customers, which is just as important to environmental protection as the CMOM Program, she says.

Heather explains that while she coordinates maintenance and rehabilitation to reduce sanitary sewer overflows, she seeks the help of MWA customers as well.

"MWA customers can assist

the Authority by not pouring grease down the drain and by disposing of it properly," she says. "Customers also can educate their children about the dangers of playing around manholes and the negative effects of putting foreign objects in manholes or toilets."

MWA customers are the first line of defense in the fight against sanitary sewer overflows. They are asked to notify the Water Authority as quickly as possible about overflowing manholes or sewer odors.

"By working together, we can make our community environmentally cleaner and safer," she concludes.

"MWA customers can assist the Authority by not pouring grease down the drain and by disposing of it properly."



Heather Veal, CMOM Coordinator and Employee of the Year for the MWA.

Staying safe from a silent killer – carbon monoxide poisoning

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) is joining forces with the Macon-Bibb County Health Department to warn customers of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, tasteless, and odorless gas that can kill without warning. It often is produced by older motorized vehicles, and gas-powered tools, heaters, and cooking equipment can produce CO as well. In addition, household items such as gas and oil (burning) furnaces, portable generators, and charcoal grills produce this poisonous gas.

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and/or confusion.

To keep your family safe from CO poisoning, consider some helpful tips:

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors in your home.
- Check these detectors regularly to make sure they are working properly. Change the batteries in your CO detectors twice each year.
- Inspect your oil or gas furnace once a year.
- Never use a generator (or charcoal grill) of any kind inside your home or garage. Generators should be more than 20 feet away from your home.

For more information, contact LaTonje May at the Macon-Bibb County Health Department, at 478-749-0113.

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