



Currents



Tasting Water

News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

MWA unveils Bust of late Chairman Frank Amerson

More than a year after his death, former Chairman Frank Amerson is referenced often at the Macon Water Authority (MWA), as his presence continues to be felt at the water and sewer utility he helped build. Now Mr. Amerson's image will be visible as well, following the unveiling of a sculpted bust of his likeness on Nov. 7, at Authority headquarters.

“He was a giant in our industry, respected throughout the state of Georgia among water professionals.”

“Because of Frank’s service, leadership and lasting impact on the Authority and our community, we thought it was appropriate to recognize his lifetime of contributions to Macon and Bibb County in this way,” says Dr. Kirby Godsey, MWA Chairman, who was appointed to complete Mr. Amerson’s unexpired term.

Frank C. Amerson, Jr. joined the Macon Water Authority in 1976, spending his first six years as an Authority Member prior to serving approximately 30 years as MWA Chairman, the position he held until his death in September of 2012.

“He was a giant in our industry, respected throughout the state of Georgia among water professionals, in addition to being one of the most influential and visionary public officials to have ever served Macon or Bibb County,” says Tony Rojas, Executive Director of the MWA.

Amerson’s fellow MWA Board Members noted



Family members of the late Frank C. Amerson, Jr., former Chairman of the MWA, were on hand for the unveiling of his bust at the Authority’s headquarters, where his presence continues to be felt because of his leadership and determination to make the utility one of the most respected in the state.

his business acumen as Chairman of the Authority as well.

“While serving on the board, Frank Amerson tried to steer the Authority to make business decisions, not political decisions,” says Javors Lucas, District 2 MWA Board Member, who served with Amerson 22 years as Vice Chairman of the Authority and more than 30 years total.

“Frank Amerson put his heart and soul into his service on the MWA Board, especially as Chairman,” notes MWA Vice-Chairman Frank Patterson.

Mr. Amerson was instrumental in securing federal and state funds to rebuild the utility’s water treatment facility following the 1994 flood. He also petitioned the State Legislature to amend the Authority’s Charter to provide it with the autonomy to invest in economic development.

Earlier this year, the Authority entered into a Personal Service Agreement with Julie McCraney-Brogdon for the sculpting, casting, and installation of both a life-sized figure and a life-sized bronze bust of Mr. Amerson.

McCraney-Brogdon is a nationally acclaimed sculptor with a B.A. in Art from Mercer University. She has completed similar busts and life-sized sculptures of prominent figures displayed locally, including Charles Douglass in the lobby of the Douglass Theatre, former Bibb County Chairman Emery Green in the lobby outside of the Bibb County Commission, and Peyton Anderson outside of the Peyton Anderson Community Services Center.

While the Amerson bust now has a permanent presence at the MWA headquarters, the life-sized figure of the former Authority Chairman is expected to be completed and placed at the Amerson Water Treatment Facility in the spring of 2014.



Julie McCraney-Brogdon (center) and her husband Bill chat with MWA Executive Director Tony Rojas (right) prior to the unveiling of her sculpted bust of former Authority Chairman Frank C. Amerson, Jr. at the utility’s headquarters.

MWA adopts five-year rate plan, beginning in 2014

Following in-depth financial analysis and study of consumption trends, the Macon Water Authority (MWA) Board of Directors has adopted a five-year rate plan, which includes long-term financial projections for the Authority while establishing customer rates for the calendar years 2014 - 2016.

The MWA’s water and sewer rates, even when accounting for three years of modest increases, are among the lowest and most competitive water utility rates in Georgia and the nation, providing evidence that MWA customers receive great value and affordability in their water and sewer services.

“It is of the upmost importance that the Authority continues to institute reasonable, incremental rate increases annually,” says Dr. Kirby Godsey, MWA Chairman of the Board. “The rates the Authority has adopted ensure that our customers and the community continue to enjoy the benefits of the water and sewer services we provide at rates that will remain affordable and competitive.”

Authority officials note that a proactive approach to implementing smaller, incremental rate increases protects customers against larger rate hikes in the future, which other

water utilities - operating without proper rate planning - are often forced to implement.

MWA customers will see a slight increase in both their water and sewer base fees, as well as minimal increases in their water and sewer consumption charges, effective Jan. 1, 2014.

At that time, the MWA variable or consumption rates will increase by 8 cents for water and by 20 cents for sewer, when compared to the rates of the previous year.

However, MWA customers will pay no more than \$2.00 per CCF for water and \$2.26 per CCF for sewer - the rates on the top tier of the highest level of monthly consumption. (One unit or CCF is equal to 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons.)

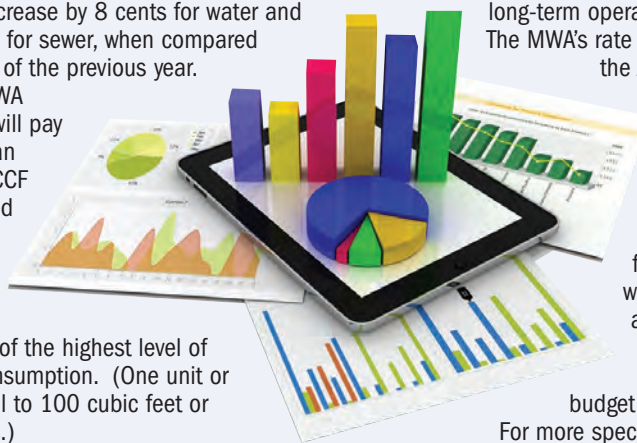
Also during 2014, the base rate for water and the base rate for sewer will increase by 50 cents each, for customers with either a 5/8” or 1” (standard) meter.

As Authority policies have prescribed annual, incremental rate increases, these rate changes are crucial for the utility’s financial health. Rate adjustments are necessary to keep revenues consistent with increasing costs and to pursue much needed capital improvements for the water and sewer system, with short- and long-term operational goals in mind.

The MWA’s rate structure will assure the Authority properly manages its outstanding debt, while maintaining its current strong bond ratings.

The MWA’s five-year rate plan will be reviewed, analyzed and updated as needed during each (annual) budget cycle.

For more specific details on the rates for MWA water and sewer services, customers can review the “Rates, Fees, and Charges” page on the Authority’s Web site at www.maconwater.org.



SECOND FRONT

MWA hosts an award-winning, record-breaking Ocmulgee Alive!

This year, the Macon Water Authority (MWA) has achieved the unofficial honor of hosting the largest volunteer river cleanup in the state of Georgia, as a result of the record-breaking 2013 Ocmulgee Alive!

More than 350 volunteers gathered on Saturday, Oct. 5, for this year's Ocmulgee Alive! Macon's annual river cleanup was organized by the MWA, in cooperation with the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail and Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful. YKK USA, Graphic Packaging International, and Coca-Cola Refreshments (Bottlers) served as premier sponsors. In addition, participating organiza-

tions included the Georgia Wilderness Society, the National Park Service/Ocmulgee National Monument, Historic Riverside Cemetery Conservancy, Bibb County Cooperative Extension, Mount de Sales Academy, Tattnall Square Academy, and Mercer University.

Ocmulgee Alive is affiliated with the statewide Rivers Alive initiative, which is a Georgia Adopt-A-Stream Program designed to create awareness of and involvement in the preservation of Georgia's waterways.

In addition, the MWA is partnering with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream to host training workshops, the

first of which was scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 14. These workshops provide volunteers with the knowledge and tools needed to monitor the health of local rivers and streams, which serve as natural resources used for producing clean and safe drinking water.

For more information on how you can become involved in the Georgia Rivers Alive or Adopt-A-Stream Programs, contact the Authority's Mark Wyzalek at 478-464-5678 or ocmulgee_alive@maconwater.org.

The photo gallery from the 2013 Ocmulgee Alive is available at www.maconwater.org.

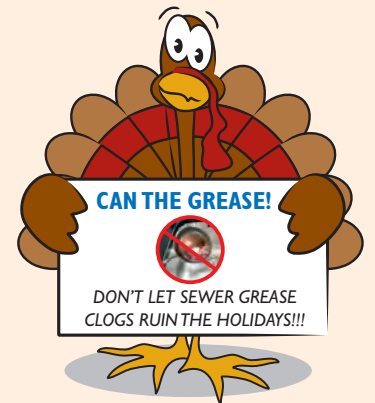


Macon Water Authority employees Algernon Wallace (left) and Mark Wyzalek, who organizes Macon's annual river cleanup, display some of the trash and debris collected during the 2013 Ocmulgee Alive!



Volunteers clean portions of the stream running through the Historic Riverside Cemetery during the 2013 Ocmulgee Alive!

Protect our water resources!



Water Assistance Program reflects spirit of giving

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

The pay stub of your bill allows you to make a contribution to the Water Assistance Program to help fellow citizens with utility payments. Customers can specify the amount of their contribution from month to month. To do so, check one of the boxes designating the donation amount and add that to your total bill payment.

For more information on our Water Assistance Program, contact an Authority Customer Care Representative at 478-464-5600.

Happy Holidays from the Macon Water Authority!

Don't forget to winterize your home!

Now is the time to winterize your property, to protect your pipes and your pocketbook from leaks or bursts this winter.

According to the UGA Cooperative Extension Service and others, to prevent exposed valves, pipes, or irrigation systems from freezing, consider these tips:

- * Insulate your exposed pipes with wraps or tapes.
- * Add insulation to your water heater as well.
- * Drain your irrigation system completely.
- * Disconnect garden hoses from outdoor faucets.
- * Shut off the valve and drain the lines on faucets that are not frost free.
- * Winterize your AC by draining all air conditioner pipes and hoses.
- * Remove window air conditioning units and insulate those areas.
- * Clean gutters, so winter rains and melting snow can drain.
- * Place your thermostat on 55° when leaving for extended periods.
- * Should a pipe burst due to freezing, know how to shut off your main water line.



For more information on winterization tips, log onto our Web site at www.maconwater.org/winterization-tips.

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