



# Currents



News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

## Dwight Jones sworn in as District 3 Board Member

The Macon Water Authority welcomed its newest Member to the Board of Directors when Dwight Jones was sworn into office prior to taking his seat for the June 5th meeting.

Jones, a life-long resident of Bibb County, represents citizens in District 3. He is a local small business owner who specializes in leasing and managing commercial properties and retail storefronts, in addition to offering businesses custom built projects for their operations, as a licensed general contractor.

Jones says he hopes his extensive business experience will benefit the citizens of District 3, noting that the Macon Water Authority likewise operates effectively as a business, thanks to its



Dwight Jones (left) is sworn in as the District 3 Member of the Macon Water Authority by Sarah S. Harris, Judge Probate, prior to the June 5th Board Meeting.

autonomy as a separate, independent governing body.

"I believe my background in business will be useful in attracting new jobs through economic development facilitated by our clean and abundant water supply," says Jones. "The primary strength of the Macon Water Authority is that historically it has operated as a business, with a reputation for making business decisions rather than political decisions for the benefit of our customers and community."

In addition to supporting the Authority's autonomy as a separate governing entity, Jones also wants the MWA to review its public notification process during sewer spills and overflows.

## SAVE THE DATE



### Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014 is the 10th annual Ocmulgee Alive!

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Ocmulgee Alive! Macon's annual river cleanup will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The public is invited to once again make this the greatest collection of volunteers for a Rivers Alive cleanup event in the state.



This year marks the 10th anniversary of Ocmulgee Alive! Macon's annual river cleanup will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4.

Rivers Alive was created by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) through its Adopt-A-Stream program as a statewide effort to increase awareness of and involvement in the protection and preservation of Georgia's waterways.

The Ocmulgee River – along with the Authority's Javors Lucas Lake – serves as a primary source for drinking water for MWA customers, in addition to providing opportunities for outdoor recreation.

For more information, including registration, log onto [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org).

## Board Spotlight: Mr. Lucas is longest tenured Member

The Macon Water Authority's Javors Lucas Lake, like the man for which it was named, is a significant part of the utility's history and plays a critical role in its present-day success. The Town Creek Reservoir was dedicated in honor of Mr. Lucas in 2006, to reflect his now 30 years of service to the Authority, its customers, and the citizens of Macon-Bibb County.

Javors J. Lucas is a native of Macon, born on Feb. 18, 1923. He was educated at Ballard Normal School, a local private high school, and Tuskegee University, where he was active in the ROTC. Interrupting his college studies, however, was the call to serve in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

During his active duty, he ran a small water treatment plant that provided his fellow troops with fresh drinking water, foreshadowing his future service on the MWA Board. Mr. Lucas was discharged from the Army in 1945, returning home to Macon and civilian life.

Through a serendipitous encounter at a local high school basketball game, Mr. Lucas met Mary Louise Davis, whom he married in 1946. They are celebrating their 68th wedding anniversary this year with friends and family, including their seven children, 23 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. His seven children have trees planted in their honor at Javors Lucas Lake.

The education and training provided by his father allowed Mr. Lucas to earn a job at Robins Air Force Base as an aircraft wood worker who constructed containers for cargo freight. When another position opened in the sign shop at Robins, he jumped at this chance to paint directional signs, name plates, and other signs around the base. His final position there was as the manager of the recreational wood shop. Mr. Lucas retired after working for 25 years in these various capacities as a civilian at Robins Air Force Base.

Mr. Lucas took that work experience from Robins and



started his own company – Lucas Signs in Macon. His reputation continued to grow as a local artist, reflected in his paintings of logos and advertisements on countless high visibility signs, including those displayed during the minor league baseball games played at Luther Williams Field.

First elected to the MWA in 1982, Mr. Lucas served 22 years as Vice Chairman during his tenure. The 91-year-old board member provides the Authority with a wide-range of perspectives and experiences as a military veteran, civilian retiree from Robins Air Force Base, and local small business owner.

"I'm most proud of the service I give to the people I represent, responding to their needs," says Mr. Lucas. "My main goal is to look out for them, and it is common for people to say 'call Mr. Lucas' and I will do whatever I can to help them."

Go to [www.maconwater.org](http://www.maconwater.org) for the entire feature on Mr. Lucas.



# SECOND FRONT

## MWA pursues \$4.3 million in sewer system upgrades at Lake Tobesofkee

In an effort to upgrade its sewer system for improved service to customers, while protecting public health and the environment through reduced sewer spills and overflows, the Macon Water Authority is implementing approximately \$4.3 million worth of capital improvements on four major projects.

The first featured nearly \$400,000 worth of improvements to the Hillbrooke, North Lizella, Sandy Beach, Glen Echo and Flintrock Pump Stations. The Authority is installing new generators and updated electrical and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) equipment for each station, while some also received new pumps.

The largest of the current MWA capital improvement projects is the sanitary sewer rehabilitation of small diameter pipes (6-inch to 12-inch) within the Tobesofkee Basin. More



Among four current capital improvements to the MWA sewer system is a major project investing more than \$3 million in pipe lining (shown here) and rehabilitation of sewer lines and manholes within the Tobesofkee basin.

than \$3 million in pipe lining and rehabilitation work is concentrating on 26,400 total feet of sewer lines and 440 manholes around Lake Tobesofkee, including those serving the Water's Edge, Glen Echo, Lake Ridge, Pineworth by the Lake, Pinnacle Pointe, Claystone Park, Arrow Park, and Flint Rock Park areas.

The third major project involves nearly \$400,000 in rehabilitation of the Water's Edge, Howard Oaks, Ashford Park and Billingswood Pump Stations, which will receive new generators and all new updated electrical and SCADA equipment.

Finally, another pump station rehabilitation project just underway will provide nearly \$475,000 worth of improvements to the Canwood, Arrowhead, Fulton Mill Road and Sawyer Pump Stations. This work likewise includes the installation of new generators and all new updated electrical and SCADA equipment for each station.



## The 20th Anniversary of the 1994 flood Two decades later, a system recovers to be even greater

The Macon Water Authority recognized the 20th Anniversary of the 1994 flood with a luncheon honoring the employees and retirees who worked to help the utility recover from this natural disaster. As a result of flooding to the old Riverside Water Treatment Facility, Authority customers were without water for 19 days, until service was restored on July 24, 1994.

The 20 years since that devastating event, the MWA has responded by building a system even greater than the long-range plans had envisioned at that time. Some of the positive results of the flood include:

- 1 The Authority built a new water treatment plant at a much higher elevation and adjacent to Javors Lucas Lake - the Authority's drinking water reservoir that was completed that year.
- 2 Rather than taking months or years to fill, Javors Lucas Lake was full in a matter of days, as a result of the extensive rainfall from tropical storm Alberto.
- 3 By opening the new Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant in 2000, the Authority was able to decommission the old Riverside Water Treatment Facility.
- 4 Approximately 95% of the total cost of the Amerson Plant was paid for by state and federal disaster relief fund dollars, requiring just 5% of the project cost from MWA ratepayers.
- 5 The Riverside Plant site is being redeveloped as Amerson River Park, which has public access to the river and is part of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, which will connect to the Park in the future.
- 6 With 60 million gallons (MGD) of production capacity, the Amerson Plant more than meets existing drinking water customer demand while accommodating for future growth.
- 7 The Amerson Water Treatment Plant has won the "Plant of the Year" Award in Georgia four times since opening, as well as producing the "Best Tasting Drinking Water in North America" in 2009.



One of the positive results of the 1994 flood was construction of the Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant, which received 95% of its necessary funding from state and federal disaster relief fund dollars.



We launched our Facebook page on July 24, which was the 20th anniversary of the Authority restoring service to customers after the 1994 flood. Like us on Facebook and let us know what you think at [www.facebook.com/MaconWaterAuthority](http://www.facebook.com/MaconWaterAuthority).

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