

March - April
2015



Currents



News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

MWA providing Macon-Bibb storm water consulting and management services

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) continues to provide storm water consulting and construction management services for Macon-Bibb County, extending a relationship that dates back to the days before consolidation of the city and county governments.

The funding facilitating this partnership between the Authority and Macon-Bibb County is the 2011 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, or SPLOST, which voters passed in November of that year to fund a number of construction projects and improvements in the community. Of the total dollars expected to be raised over a six-year period since passage of the 2011 SPLOST, an estimated \$14 million has been earmarked for improvements to the storm water infrastructure in Macon-Bibb County.

Prior to consolidation, the MWA had entered into an intergovernmental agreement with the City of Macon to provide \$7 million worth - the City's half of the SPLOST appropriations - of consulting and construction management services for storm water projects. Under this agreement, the MWA has



The MWA oversees a project to repair the storm drain on Pine Street in downtown Macon.

served as the agent to manage and oversee the process of design, procurement, construction, and completion of SPLOST-funded storm water projects within the former city limits.

Since consolidation, the new Macon-Bibb County Government expanded the intergovernmental agreement with the MWA to encompass additional

consulting services, which include the Authority's expertise in identifying and recommending future improvements to the storm water system on behalf of Macon-Bibb County. The MWA now manages storm water projects funded by the 2011 voter-approved SPLOST throughout Macon-Bibb County, including the former unincorporated Bibb County.

To date, the storm water consulting and construction management services provided by the MWA for Macon-Bibb County have included the oversight of activities such as Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) to assess the condition of storm water infrastructure, as well as professional engineering to establish the repair methods for the specific projects. The engineering and construction process, which the Authority supervises for Macon-Bibb County, includes the management of reports, bid documents, specifications, and construction drawings for the designated SPLOST storm water projects, which are then advertised for bid to licensed utility contractors for construction. The MWA manages these storm water projects through to completion.

Amerson Plant to host Open House and 5K during Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years, water utilities have been recognizing national Drinking Water Week during the first week in May. But only a few are in the company of the Macon Water Authority (MWA) as a past recipient of the Best Tasting Drinking Water in North America, as awarded by the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

National Drinking Water Week is set for May 3-9, 2015, and the MWA has two major events on tap at its Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant to celebrate.

The first is the annual Open House on Thursday May 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Guests will be able to tour the campus of the water treatment facility, which has been selected as the Best Operated Plant in the state by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals on four occasions. The Authority will

provide an up-close look at how it produces award-winning drinking water, from the intakes at the Ocmulgee River and Javors Lucas Lake, to the treatment and filtration process, to finished drinking water storage, and more.

The Authority's Drinking Water Week celebration welcomes a new event this year - The Running Water 5K. In partnership with Mount de Sales Academy, the MWA will host this 5K at the Amerson Plant on Saturday May 9, to help area high schools raise money to purchase and install water bottle filling stations on their campuses. Mount de Sales has been leading the local initiative to "ban the bottle" and is encouraging other schools to do the same. A link to register for the Running Water 5K can be found on the MWA website.

Drinking Water Week is a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to recognize the vital role water plays in our everyday lives.

For more information, contact the MWA staff at 478-464-5650, or log onto our website at www.maconwater.org.



The MWA will host an Open House at its Amerson Water Treatment Plant on Thursday May 7, along with a 5K road race on Saturday May 9, to celebrate Drinking Water Week.



You're invited to the award-winning, 10th Annual Kids Fishing Derby on June 13

When the Macon Water Authority (MWA) hosts its annual Kids Fishing Derby at Javors Lucas Lake on Saturday June 13, it will mark the 10th anniversary of this public education event, which was awarded the best of its kind in the state by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) this past year.

Registration for the 10th annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby will begin at 6:00 a.m. on June 13, with the competition scheduled for 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Contestants can showcase their biggest catch of the day from the time they reel it in until 10:30 a.m., when the weigh-in closes. An awards ceremony will be held at 11:30 a.m. to conclude the festivities.

Top prizes will be awarded to winners in four age group categories, thanks to event sponsors. A snack lunch and refreshments will be offered, and guests are welcome to stay and fish the entire day.

Admission to the Kids Fishing Derby is free, as it is held on one of the select days of the year when the Georgia Department of Natural Resources allows fishing on state waters without possession of a permit.

Children and Youth from the ages of 3 to 16 are eligible to participate in the Fishing Derby, and Academy Sports + Outdoors is

serving as premier sponsor for the eighth straight year.

Academy Sports + Outdoors

The popular 6-acre catfish pond, which has reopened for anglers during the 2015 fishing season, will be stocked. Guests should bring their own bait and tackle, however. The site of the Kids Fishing Derby at Javors Lucas Lake is accessible via 150 Broach Lane, which is off of Upper River Road.

For more information on the Kids Fishing Derby, contact the MWA at 478-464-5650, or log onto our website at www.maconwater.org.



The MWA 2015 Kids Fishing Derby will be held at Javors Lucas on Saturday June 13, when children and youth from the ages of 3 to 16 can compete for top prizes and the biggest catch of the day.

SECOND FRONT

PAFR provides highlights of MWA financials and milestones in 2014

Macon Water Authority (MWA) customers are invited to review the current Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which provides easy-to-read highlights of the utility's fiscal performance this past year and financial condition to date.

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The information included in both the CAFR and PAFR is compiled from the Authority's recently audited set of financial statements, which are prepared in accordance with generally accepted

The independent auditors from Mauldin & Jenkins, CPA presented the annual Audit of the MWA and its subsidiary Macon Soils during the Authority's February Finance Committee Meeting. At that time, the auditors noted the Authority received a clean audit opinion, which means the financial statements of the MWA present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Authority for the fiscal year (FY) ending Sept. 30, 2014.

operating year at the Macon Water Authority, and we take great pride in being able to report those results to our customers," says Guy Boyle, MWA Executive Vice President of Business Operations.



It was another solid financial and operating year at the Macon Water Authority, and we take great pride in being able to report those results to our customers."

Guy Boyle, MWA Executive Vice President of Business Operations

The annual PAFR also includes highlights of news and developments at the MWA from this past year. It is a condensed, user friendly version of the content presented in the Authority's

accounting principles.

The newly published PAFR is accessible on the MWA website at www.maconwater.org, with limited printed copies available at Authority Headquarters.

As a result, the MWA Board of Directors adopted the FY 2014 CAFR and Audit during its March Meeting, prior to the utility publishing the PAFR for the benefit of customers and other stakeholders.

"It was another solid financial and



A Pink Paradise at the Cherry Blossom Festival

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) showcased its Pink Paradise recently at the community's most visible and highly anticipated annual event – the Macon, Georgia International Cherry Blossom Festival.

The Authority's Pink Paradise float reflected the Cherry Blossom parade's theme of "Pink on Pink" and the Festival's overall purpose of "Love, Beauty, and International Friendship."

MWA employees decorated their Pink Paradise float with pink waves, in addition to palm trees accompanying hula girls in grass skirts and pink leis. It was only appropriate that the design of the MWA's float reflect a water paradise, since the utility provides finished drinking water for Macon-Bibb and surrounding counties.

The Cherry Blossom Festival has become one of the Top 20 Events in

the South, Top 50 Events in the U.S., and top 100 Events in North America. It has received international acclaim thanks to the work of the Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful Commission, which established the event in 1982, and the generosity of the Fickling Family Foundation, which continues to donate thousands of cherry trees to the community each year.

With more than 300,000 Yoshino cherry trees planted to date, Macon, Georgia is rightfully known as the "Cherry Blossom Capitol of the World," in addition to boasting the "Best Tasting Drinking Water in North America."

Coincidentally, on the day of the International Cherry Blossom Festival parade, water professionals were celebrating World Water Day (March 22), a global event founded by the United Nations General Assembly.



MWA employees, board members, and their families and friends, prepare to board the "Pink Paradise" float for the "Pink on Pink" community parade on March 22 (World Water Day), during the 33rd Cherry Blossom Festival.

MWA continues focus on Environmental Education

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) received a nice preview of its Open House at the Amerson Water Treatment Plant, scheduled for May 7, when it hosted a class from Burdell Hunt Elementary School for tours of the award-winning facility on March 24.

The 5th grade students from Burdell Hunt not only toured the Amerson Plant, but they were treated to an environmental education lesson led by Amanda DePriest, Environmental Education Curator with the Museum of Arts and Sciences. The MWA, Museum of Arts and Sciences, and Macon Rotary Club sponsored this school field trip.

The Authority and the Museum also partner with the Bibb County

Board of Education, NewTown Macon, and the Dorothy V. & N. Logan Lewis Foundation to host additional Environmental Education Programming for local students at Amerson River Park.



Burdell Hunt Elementary School students tour the MWA Amerson Plant, which is the site of the Drinking Water Week Open House on May 7.

Consider Bank Draft Service

To make sure your water/sewer bill is paid on time and without penalty, you should consider signing up for MWA Automatic Bank Draft Service.

For additional information, including an authorization form, contact the MWA at 478-464-5600 or at www.maconwater.org.



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