

Currents



News and Developments for Customers of the Macon Water Authority

Water Distribution System Master Plan anticipating future needs of customers

During their July Meeting, Macon Water Authority (MWA) Board Members approved a Task Order to hire Hazen and Sawyer consulting engineers to create a water distribution system master plan – the first comprehensive long-range plan of its kind in the history of the utility.

This master plan will cover a 20-year period of projected demand for the MWA water distribution system. During the master planning process, the Authority will create an enhanced water distribution system computer model to simulate existing and future operations. In doing so, the team will review several "what-if" scenarios in order to find optimum solutions through system changes, upgrades, and improved operational efficiency, to accommodate increased water demand in the future.



(L to R) Amerson Plant Top Operator Bill Maine and Top Operator Ronnie Evans show a customer the highlights of the MWA system during an Open House celebrating Drinking Water Week. The MWA is pursuing its first water distribution system master plan to anticipate the future needs of customers.

The water distribution system master plan ultimately will provide a recommended timeline for the Authority to anticipate future capital projects, enabling the utility to better prepare for necessary funding and construction.

The cost for the proposed water distribution system master plan and professional services came in under budget, so the Authority opted to add two optional services recommended by Hazen and Sawyer – a vulnerability assessment of the distribution system for failure and an energy use analysis.

The total investment in the water distribution system master plan and additional services is \$302,560, with the master plan project expected to take approximately one year to complete.

Amerson River Park reopens to the public with \$5.5 million in improvements

Amerson River Park – which is named after former long-time MWA Chairman, the late Frank Amerson – has officially re-opened to the public following the completion of \$5.5 million worth of construction to enhance this public use area.

The latest improvements to the Park were funded by a federal grant and matching dollars raised by NewTown Macon. The Park now features the addition of 3.5 miles of paved trails, an enhanced Porter Pavilion, an overlook with picnic shelters, permanent restrooms, as well as additional roadways and parking.

These new features complement the playground and picnic pavilion, the Bragg Jam Take Out at Bowman Creek to the south, as well as the Jay Hall Memorial river access to the north. The Park is located amidst 180 acres of protected green space, where the MWA Riverside Water Treatment Plant once stood prior to being decommissioned after the 1994 flood.



(L to R): Janice and Carl Amerson – son of the late MWA Chairman Frank Amerson, for whom the Park is named – celebrate the re-opening of Amerson River Park with Mark Wyzalek, MWA Director of Laboratory and Environmental Compliance, and Frank Patterson, MWA Vice Chairman and District 4 Board Member.

MWA partners with Mercer University to reach for the stars

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) has entered into a lease agreement with Mercer University to provide a site for the institution's management and operation of an astronomical observatory.

The Authority has agreed to lease 125 acres of property it owns in Crawford County to Mercer University for a period of 10 years, with two additional five-year options.

"This is an ideal location for an observatory that will work out well for us," says Dr. Matt Marone, Mercer University Associate Professor in the Physics Department of the College of Liberal Arts who is leading the initiative to establish this local observatory. "This partnership will be good for the citizens of Middle Georgia."

MWA Chairman Sam Hart agrees. Having worked for Mercer University in addition to serving currently as Authority Chairman, he has a

unique perspective on this relationship and the role the Authority can play in liberal arts education. Hart calls this partnership "a great day for Macon-Bibb County," because the Macon Water Authority is not only providing the community with the best tasting water, but with educational opportunities as well.

"This partnership with Mercer University will greatly enhance our community and allow us to provide things educationally we weren't able to previously," says Chairman Hart. "I think as an Authority, we've been interested in facilitating stronger relationships with our schools; this partnership with Mercer – and the outstanding facility that will come to fruition as a result – reflects that desire to grow and expand all kinds of educational programs for kids, especially related to science, technology and engineering."



Coming soon:



Hosted by the
Macon Water Authority
Partnering with Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful, Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, and others

Sponsored by
YKK, Graphic Packaging International, and Coca-Cola Refreshments

Macon's 11th annual river cleanup, which begins at 8:30 a.m. on Oct. 10, is a Georgia Rivers Alive Program.

For more information, including how to be a sponsor:
478-464-5678 or
ocmulgee_alive@maconwater.org



A telescope similar to this one will be used at an observatory operated by Mercer University on land owned by the MWA. Photo by www.otpcorp.com.

SECOND FRONT

MWA employees stand among the best water professionals in Georgia

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) recognized the best of the best within the state's water and sewer industry during its Annual Conference & Expo, held July 12-15 in Savannah. MWA employees were among those water professionals receiving statewide awards for outstanding leadership, service and volunteerism, as well as dedication to the profession and industry associations.

The Authority's Dale Moorehead was the headliner of the Conference Program when he brought home the Operator's Meritorious Service Award, which is given annually by the Georgia Section of the American Water Works Association. This award is the highest honor a water plant operator can achieve, representing the top operator in the state of Georgia.

Darryl Macy, MWA Manager of Sewer Conveyance and Water Distribution, also was honored when he received the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award. This industry accolade recognizes a water professional who provides

"extraordinary personal service" to the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

Jocelyn Hunt, MWA Assistant Manager of Water Operations, was inducted into the "5-S" Society during the GAWP Annual Conference. For induction into "5-S" water professionals must display outstanding service above and beyond the call of duty. The group also is instrumental in raising money for the GAWP Scholarship Fund.

The MWA also received the 2015 People's Choice Award. During the Conference, water professionals in attendance voted for the "people's choice" as the best-tasting water in Georgia. Results were tallied from an independent taste test featuring drinking water from this year's district winners.

Finally, the MWA was honored with the U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award, achieving the silver level of recognition for providing 742.5 hours of collective volunteer service among its employees this past year.



Darryl Macy (left), MWA Manager of Sewer Conveyance and Water Distribution, accepts the Arthur Sidney Bedell Award from the Georgia Section of the Water Environment Federation.

Look who landed the big catches at Javors Lucas Lake

The 10th annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby welcomed 267 young anglers and their families from all across Middle Georgia for a fun-filled day of



Darrell Clements had the Biggest Catch of the Day at the 2015 MWA Kids Fishing Derby, reeling in a 6.61-pound catfish out of Javors Lucas Lake.

outdoor recreation and education. Gifts and prizes were provided for the winners with the help of \$1,500 in donations from event sponsors, including Academy Sports + Outdoors – as premier sponsor – and Georgia Power. MWA employees, retirees, and board members volunteered their time as well to host the event. Congratulations to the winners of the 2015 MWA Kids Fishing Derby.

Biggest Catch – Darrell Clements, 6.61 pound catfish

Age 3 to 5 Category:

1st place – Leana Newton
2nd place – Nicholas Cunningham
3rd place – Tanner Pritchett

Age 6 to 9 Category:

1st place – Louis Tharpe
2nd place – Naveah Gibson
3rd place – Savannah Jackson

Age 10 to 13 Category:

1st place – Gloria Beal
2nd place – Jybrant Thomas
3rd place – Ryluk Wheatley

Age 14 to 16 Category:

1st place – Amane Rore
2nd place – Joseph Washington
3rd place – Alexia Lester

Smallest Catch – Trey Barton

For photos of the 2015 MWA Kids Fishing Derby, check out our Website gallery at www.maconwater.org, where you also can link to more photos on our Facebook page.

Fishing Season enters last leg

The last leg of the 2015 Fishing Season at Javors Lucas Lake resumes on Saturday, Sept. 5 (fishing not available on Labor Day), and extends

through Sunday, Oct. 25. During these last two months of the 2015 MWA Fishing Season, Javors Lucas Lake will be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Justin (left) and Alexia Braswell may not have reeled in a big fish, but their big smiles tell the real story of the 10th annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby.

Online Bill Pay the easiest of MWA payment methods

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) offers several methods for paying your monthly water/sewer bill, and the results of a recently completed customer survey reveal overwhelming satisfaction with these many payment options.

Arguably the quickest and easiest method of payment is the Online Bill Pay service the MWA offers through a secured portal on its website (www.maconwater.org). Paying your monthly water/sewer bill online is both swift and secure, requiring only your MWA account number and either a credit card or checking account to provide payment.

To pay your bill online, go to the "Pay Your Bill (Online Bill Pay)" page under the Customer Care section of our website. There also is a link to this page in the top right

corner of our home page. Once you are on this page for online bill pay or billing/balance inquiry, you need only to enter your account number in the space provided and click "submit." From there, a page within our secured bill payment site will be displayed where you can enter your bank account or credit card information along with your payment amount. You can go online to schedule or make this payment any time. That's all there is to it!

All of your financial information provided while utilizing our Online Bill Pay service is safe and secure because it is encrypted during the process involving your submission and our receiving payment.

For more information, contact our Customer Care Representatives at 478-464-5600.



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