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Currents



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MWA

MWA receives upgrade in bond ratings

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) board of directors has approved the refinancing of more than \$24 million of outstanding debt with its Series 2008 Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds.

In doing so, the Authority obtained an upgrade in its bond ratings from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, providing it with the highest unenhanced bond rating among all local government entities in Macon and Bibb County. Standard & Poor's raised its rating on the MWA's Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds from "AA-" to "AA", while Moody's upgraded its rating for the Authority from Aa3 to Aa2.

The net present value savings of this bond refinancing will be \$1,039,200, due to a reduction in the interest rate from the 4.94% the Authority was paying previously on its Series 1998 bonds, to the 3.36% rate the MWA will be paying on its Series 2008



The Macon Water Authority recently received an upgrade in its bond ratings from Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investors Service, as its board of directors (above) elected to refinance more than \$24 million of long-term debt through a Series 2008 bond issue, which will result in approximately \$1 million of net savings for the utility.

refunding. The maximum annual debt service of the Authority's first lien debt will also reduce by more than \$200,000, beginning in October of 2010.

According to Standard & Poor's, the MWA's current AA bond rating reflects the

Authority's continued financial strength, evidenced by consistently strong debt service coverage and a very strong liquidity position. The Authority also has a stable financial outlook because of its ability to fund most of its capital improvements internally, with-

out having to seek additional outside sources for financing.

As noted by Moody's Investors Service, the upgrade of the Authority's bond rating to Aa2 reflects the marked and sustained improvement of the system's financial operations over a multi-year period, enabling the system to achieve solid debt service coverage ratios and high levels of liquidity.

"We've been working for more than 30 years to obtain this type of financial position, and I've never been happier, because these current ratings reflect the hard work and responsible oversight of our board, management and employees," says Frank C. Amerson, Jr., chairman of the board for the MWA. "I didn't think we'd receive the upgrade in our bond ratings, because (the ratings services) had been under some scrutiny. But we are pleased with the results. Now we have the highest unenhanced bond rating of any government in Macon or Bibb County."

MWA successful in request to EPD to reduce outdoor watering restrictions

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) has been successful in its petition to obtain a Drought Response Modification from the state Environmental Protection Division (EPD), which now allows customers to expand their outdoor water use schedule to include evenings on their allotted days.

The new Level II Modification given to the MWA means customers may now enjoy outdoor water use within the hours of 12:00 midnight to 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight on the odd-even schedule, with odd-numbered addresses continuing to water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and even numbered and unnumbered addresses watering on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. No watering is permitted on Fridays.

Authority officials noted in their petition to EPD that Javors Lucas Lake was at a higher elevation this summer than it was at the same time last year. The reservoir, which is approximately 625 acres in size, with a raw water storage capacity of 6.5 billion gallons, is above 95 percent full currently.

The Authority's petition to EPD provided the state regulators with a reservoir storage

analysis graph and worksheet, which detailed how its distribution system has adequate storage and delivery capacity to meet permitted potability and pressure standards during all demand periods. In addition, the Authority documented how its raw water sources have adequate storage and/or delivery capacity to meet water demands during the coming months and beyond.

The expanded hours for outdoor watering will provide more flexibility and convenience for customers in their outdoor water use, says Tony Rojas, MWA executive director.

"By allowing our customers to water in the evenings, they are no longer censured if they have a traditional work schedule, or if they don't have an irrigation system," says Rojas. "Now they can water in the evening when they get home from work, which is still a good time of day for efficient watering of lawns and landscape."

MWA Chairman of the Board Frank C. Amerson, Jr. also says the Authority's ability to obtain a Modification to Level II Drought Conditions is an indication of proper long-range planning.



Because of the Macon Water Authority's successful petition to Georgia EPD to obtain a Level II Drought Response Modification, customers may now expand their outdoor water use to include designated evening hours on their allotted days.

"The customers helped pay for the reservoir, the buffer areas to protect it, and the infrastructure to treat and distribute water from (the reservoir) to their homes," explains Amerson. "They should be able to benefit from their investment. We're glad we can supply the additional demand for water by our customers. Other systems are not so fortunate."

For more information on outdoor water use, log onto www.maconwater.org.

SECOND FRONT

MWA hosts another record crowd at annual Kids Fishing Derby

This year's MWA Youth Fishing Derby, held at the Authority's Javors Lucas Lake, hosted more than 400 participating children, not counting the hundreds of parents and adults in attendance.

The event, which nearly doubled in size when compared to last year's Derby, was held on one of the select days during the year that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources allows people to fish state waters without the need of a permit, to promote the sport of fishing.

Children and youth taking part in the free Kids Fishing Derby were divided into four age group categories to compete for prizes, while the Authority also recognized the "biggest catch of the day."

Tre-Vaughn Anthony reeled in a catfish weighing 5 pounds and 7 ounces, which won him both the biggest catch of the day and the age 10-13 category.

The other winners included Matthew Clapper, the first place recipient in the age 3-5 category, with a catch of 2 pounds and 8 ounces. He finished ahead of Allie Livingston in second place and Kennedy Fuller in third, within this youngest age group.

In the age 6-9 category, Caleb Graham won first place with a catch of 3 pounds and 5 ounces. He was followed by David Hopkins in second and Christian Tribble in third.



Above: Tre-Vaughn Anthony shows off the "biggest catch of the day" at the MWA Kids Fishing Derby, with help from MWA Board Member Frank Patterson (left) and the Authority's Darryl Macy. Left: Young Allie Livingston awaits word on the weight of her best catch, which was good enough for second place in the age 3-5 category.



In the age 10-13 category, the runners up behind Tre-Vaughn Anthony included Lonnie Anderson in second and Michael Adams in third.

Finally, in the age 14-16 cate-

gory, Steven Mays brought home first place with a catch of 4 pounds and 7 ounces, finishing ahead of Alan Cumbess in second and Andrew Zellner in third.

The trophies and awards for the winners in the various age categories, as well as other prizes, food, and refreshments, were made possible thanks to the generosity of more than 20 event sponsors. This year's Fishing Derby event sponsors included: the Sock Shop, Nxtec, Pyles Plumbing, Coca Cola, Chic-fil-A, Morseman & Brooks, A Auto Clinic, Anchor Sales, Consolidated Pipe, Kent Proctor, Mid Georgia Fluid & Seal, Barlow World, Macon Occupational, Jeneane's Restaurant, Cherokee Brick & Tile, Med-Center, Riverside Uniform, Riverside First Aid, Capitol City Bank, and Georgia Power.

In addition, Academy Sports provided gift bags for all participants, as well as a grand prize, which included an outdoor grill and additional camping gear, won by C.D. Hughes.

Other local organizations on display, providing interactive outdoor educational activities, included the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division from Region 4, the City of Macon Tree Commission, Cooperative Extension Service, the Macon Water Authority as host, and others. Authority employees and retirees also dedicated their time as volunteers.

The MWA Youth Fishing Derby is an ideal opportunity for parents and their children to spend quality time together, says Frank Patterson, MWA Board Member.

MWA capital improvements include major water main upgrade

As a part of its long-range master plan of capital improvements and renewal and replacement of assets, the Macon Water Authority (MWA) is transferring services from an older 8" line to a recently installed,

major 16" water main down Nottingham Drive, from the Gray Highway to the Masonic Lodge.

Prior to beginning the project, the Authority hosted a town hall meeting to give the residents in the area, especially those along Nottingham

Drive, a chance to ask questions about the work. As a result of these customer connections being transferred from the old water main to the new, larger main with additional capacity, water distribution services will be enhanced in

that area of the MWA system.

This capital project is being handled in-house, as MWA maintenance crews will be doing the work during a two to three month timeline, with the transfer of connections beginning

sometime in August.

For more information on capital improvements, as well as the renewal and replacement of MWA assets, check out the link our "projects" on the Authority's Web site at www.maconwater.org.

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