



Currents



NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE MACON WATER AUTHORITY

Protecting Natural Resources Through Environmental Stewardship

MWA honored for Ocmulgee Pipe Lining Project

A water or sewer utility has to be very careful when it's working to repair infrastructure in an environmentally sensitive area, especially if that utility professes stewardship as a core value, like the MWA does.

The MWA sewer line rehabilitation project along the banks of the Ocmulgee River is an example of this delicate balance between construction and



MWA President and Executive Director Tony Rojas (center, right) and Field Operations Director Michel Wanna (center, left) accept the NACWA Operations & Environmental Performance Award.

conservation. When addressing a major capital project to rehab an aging sewer main along the Ocmulgee, the Authority used an innovative pipe lining technology to prevent it from having to tear out the old pipe and disturb the integrity of the river bank.

As a result, fellow advocates for environmental protection are taking notice of such tangible proof of the Authority's stewardship. As evidence, this MWA sewer line rehab project recently received accolades from both the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and the Georgia Water Coalition.

In February, NACWA recognized the MWA with a 2018 National Environmental Achievement Award during the Association's Winter Conference in Napa Valley, CA. The MWA received the NACWA Operations & Environmental Performance Award for having made outstanding contributions to environmental protection and wastewater management.

In March, the Georgia Water Coalition recognized the MWA at the inaugural Clean 13 Water Heroes Celebration in Atlanta. As noted by the state's leading water protection coalition, the MWA is among the top individuals, businesses, industries, non-profit organizations, and governments, whose

extraordinary efforts have led to cleaner water in Georgia.

The Clean 13 Celebration also served as a fundraiser that garnered \$36,000 to further secure sound state water management policies that protect Georgia natural resources.

"Stewardship is one of the core values of the Macon Water Authority," says Tony Rojas, MWA President & Executive Director. "These awards reflect our commitment to maintain and invest in our infrastructure to ensure its sustainability and to protect our environmental resources for future generations."



The MWA delegation at the inaugural Clean 13 Water Heroes Celebration in Atlanta.

The Cayenta Kickoff – MWA Adopts New Software

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) will transform the way it handles billing and customer service. On April 4, the MWA replaced a 35-year-old Customer Service Software with a new

Customer Billing and Financial Software System called Cayenta.

One of the new features of the software expected to benefit

customers greatly is daily billing. As a result, MWA customers will receive more consistent and timely bills, since invoices will be generated immediately following meter readings.

In addition, MWA customers now can use a self-service account management portal, accessible 24 hours a day, with amenities such as historic water usage data, payment methods and scheduling options, an online means for starting, stopping, or transferring service, and more. In the future, customers also will have a Live Chat feature to communicate with MWA Customer Care Representatives online in real time.

The new software also will offer

vendors an improved method for submitting bids, while better managing contracts, documenting progress on projects, and processing invoices, for those awarded bids or conducting

business with the Authority.

Ultimately, the Cayenta Software will enhance the MWA's means for financial analysis and expense reporting, which should

aid in decision making. And thanks to Cayenta, more business processes at the MWA will be handled digitally, so invoices, purchase orders, requisitions and more, will be paperless.

More information on the new Cayenta Software is available by contacting Macon Water Authority Customer Care Representatives at 478-464-5600.



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Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) available online

The condensed Report of MWA financials reflect a strong FY 2017

This past Fiscal Year (FY 2017) was another strong year, financially, for the MWA and led to a banner year for Macon-Bibb County in

terms of economic development – evident in three major projects bringing jobs to the region – and the Authority made strides in community redevelopment as well.

Those highlights and more are featured in the recently published MWA Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which is a condensed version of the Authority's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The financials included in

these reports are compiled from the Authority's recently audited set of financial statements, for which the MWA received a clean audit opinion from an independent audit firm last year. Both documents can be found on the MWA website at www.maconwater.org.



"We had a productive year in 2017, and we have continued to maintain a strong financial position," says Guy Boyle, MWA Executive

Vice President of Business Operations & Chief Financial Officer.

Boyle notes the affordability and competitiveness of MWA rates, which remain among the lowest of all water/sewer utilities in Georgia, are among the highlights of the PAFR as well.

The PAFR is a means for the Authority to share with its customers and community the utility's financials for this past fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, 2017. It's a "state of the Macon Water Authority" type of Report.



SECOND FRONT

Celebrating the Water Profession Through Drinking Water Week

Highlights include Water Professionals Appreciation Day and Open House

The MWA is celebrating National Drinking Water Week during the week of May 6-12, 2018.

The festivities begin on Monday May 7, with Water Professionals Appreciation Day, when MWA employees will be recognized for their service to the community. Since becoming law in 2015, the first Monday in May each year is Water Professionals Appreciation Day in Georgia.

In addition, on Thursday May 10, the MWA will host a free Open House at the Frank C. Amerson, Jr. Water Treatment Plant, which is a five-time

recipient of the Plant of the Year Award in Georgia.

MWA customers and the community are welcome to stop by the Amerson Plant on May 10, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for free refreshments, tours of the facility and all of its processes, a bounce house for children, as well promotional items and public information on how the Authority produces the Best Tasting Drinking Water in North America, as judged by the American Water Works Association (AWWA).

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



Chuck Mixon (left), who was recently promoted to the position of MWA Assistant Director of Water Treatment, leads guests on a tour of the Amerson Plant during last year's Open House during National Drinking Water Week.

June 2 will mark 13th Annual Kids Fishing Derby

The 13th Annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby will be held at Javors Lucas Lake on Saturday June 2, 2018. This free event is held on one of the few days during the year that the Georgia Department of Natural Resources

allows fishing on Georgia waters without a permit.

Children age 3 to 16 are invited to compete for prizes awarded according to four age groups, as first, second, and third place winners will be announced for categories of ages 3-5, 6-9, 10-13, and 14-16.

Participants in the MWA Kids Fishing Derby must be accompanied by an adult, who may also fish for free that day. Registration for the event is at 6:00 a.m.,



The 13th Annual MWA Kids Fishing Derby will be held at Javors Lucas Lake on Saturday June 2, 2018.

and the fishing begins at 7:00 a.m. The official weigh-in, to determine those biggest catches of the day, starts at 10:30 a.m.

The MWA Kids Fishing Derby is organized and scheduled through the Authority's Outdoor Recreation Committee, and this annual event is sponsored by the MWA's non-profit Macon Water Alliance. The goal of the MWA Kids Fishing Derby is to provide an opportunity for outdoor recreation for local families,

in addition to public education on the importance of protecting and preserving drinking water resources.

For more information on the 2018 MWA Kids Fishing Derby, check out our website at www.maconwater.org.

A Partnership to Transform Public Housing

When the Macon Housing Authority (MHA) requested assistance from the MWA to fund the water and sewer infrastructure that will serve the redeveloped Tindall Heights neighborhood, the Water Authority stepped up to the tune of \$1.2 million.

The Tindall Heights neighborhood was the first public housing project in Macon. Last year, the Housing Authority directed demolition of the old housing units to make way for construction of Tindall Seniors Towers (pictured below). Several phases of development are planned, pending federal grants, totaling approximately \$45 million dollars.

As a result of the partnership agreement between the MWA and MHA, the Housing Authority was able to begin construction on the first phase of redevelopment last November. That initial phase will house persons 62 years of age and older within 76 units. The overall redevelopment plan includes a total of 270 units upon completion. Construction will be spread over four separate phases, with a fifth phase planned for commercial development to complement the residences.

The MWA is investing more than \$1.2 million dollars in funding over the next three years for the installation of water and sewer infrastructure in the Tindall Heights Community.

"On behalf of the current and future residents of the Tindall Fields Development and the Commitments of the Macon-Bibb County Housing Authority, I offer a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the MWA Board for their outstanding leadership and vision for helping this project succeed," says Mike Austin, CEO of the MHA.



Altamaha Riverkeeper Invites You to Paddle Georgia!

The Altamaha Riverkeeper, a public education partner of the MWA on initiatives such as the Annual Ocmulgee Alive! River Cleanup, invites you to join them for Paddle Georgia, June 16-22, 2018.

From 12:00 p.m. on June 16 to 11:00 a.m. on June 22, Altamaha Riverkeeper and friends of the Yellow and Ocmulgee Rivers will be paddling those respective Georgia waters to celebrate the protection and preservation



of these natural resources. Altamaha Riverkeeper will be hosting a fabulous seafood feast and BBQ, with food, fellowship and music, at Amerson River Park the last night of the event, on June 22.

For more information on Altamaha Riverkeeper events and Paddle Georgia 2018, check out the advocacy group online at altamahariverkeeper.org.

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