



The MWA Board of Directors welcomes Joseph "Joey" Leverette (center) as its new Executive Director during the December Board Meeting.

MWA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOSEPH "JOEY" LEVERETTE RETURNS TO MIDDLE GEORGIA TO LEAD THE AUTHORITY

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) Board of Directors has selected Joseph "Joey" Leverette to lead the utility as its new Executive Director, following an exhaustive search and review process. The Authority announced in October that Leverette was one of two finalists for the utility's chief executive position, and the Board made it official at its December meeting.

Leverette is a Middle Georgia native who grew up in Warner Robins. He joins the MWA from Gainesville Regional Utilities,

where he served as Director of Water Distribution & Wastewater Collections. He received a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from Georgia College & State University as well as a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia.

Leverette has more than 26 years of management experience with utilities in the water, wastewater, and stormwater industries. He has worked as a Utility Director for a small utility, a Division Manager in a medium-sized utility, and in his most recent position as a Director for

a large, comprehensive and multi-faceted utility in Gainesville, Florida.

"I am very familiar with the Macon Water Authority's reputation as an outstanding and progressive organization within the industry in Georgia," he says. "I'm honored to be chosen as the new Executive Director, and I look forward to building mutually beneficial working relationships within the utility and community."

For the complete feature on Mr. Leverette, please visit the News Archives on our website at www.maconwater.org.



STORMWATER SUCCESS IN 2021 WAS EVIDENT

The MWA has compiled data from its supervision of Stormwater Management for citizens of Macon-Bibb County in 2021, demonstrating that the Authority has been hard at work providing Stormwater Utility Services during Year 1.

Some Key Performance Indicators from last year reveal that the MWA completed more than 450 miles of Street Sweeping, cleaned more than 32,000 feet of Ditches, and cleaned more than 2,700 Catch Basins through the end of October 2021.

However, perhaps most telling of MWA Stormwater Management success is the evidence the MWA completed more than 2,100 Work Orders from Citizen Requests to address Stormwater issues throughout the community.

You can help us identify Stormwater concerns by letting us know about incidents you may have in your neighborhood. **To place a Citizen Request Work Order, please contact us at 478-464-5600.**

WEATHERIZE YOUR PROPERTY THIS WINTER

Now that we have officially moved into the Winter season, this is the time to weatherize your home, especially any water lines potentially exposed to freezing temperatures. Preventing pipe bursts, leaks, or related incidents, can save you water and money on your monthly bill.

Some simple weatherization tips for you to consider this winter include:

- Insulate exposed pipes with wraps or tapes.
- Consider adding or supplementing insulation to water heaters.
- Drain irrigation systems, so water doesn't freeze when they are inactive.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses from all outdoor water faucets (spigots).
- Shut off pipes that feed outdoor faucets and let them drain completely.
- Spigot covers also can help protect outdoor faucets from freezing temperatures.

- Winterize air conditioning units as well, insulating exposed pipes and hoses.
- Remove window air conditioning units and insulate those areas accordingly.
- Clean gutters, so winter rains and melting snow can drain.
- When leaving your property for an extended period of time, turn your thermostat down rather than completely off.
- Should a pipe burst due to freezing or under any other circumstances, always know how to shut off the main water line servicing your property.

For more information on weatherization tips and related topics, please visit the "Education" section of our website at www.maconwater.org.



PARDON OUR PROGRESS

IMPROVEMENTS AT MWA HEADQUARTERS HOPE TO ENHANCE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

If you have visited the Albert Billingslea Administrative Headquarters on Second Street recently, you've obviously noticed a lot of changes, as we make progress on an \$8.5 million renovation of the entire campus.

We apologize for any temporary inconvenience this may cause for you. This complete renovation will include a new customer service entrance to eliminate confusion and provide easier access to the lobby, especially for citizens with disabilities.

In addition, the headquarters renovations will include redesign of the drive-thru lanes and a new parking lot featuring permeable pavers as

an example of better stormwater management, as well as many other upgrades to the building's interior and exterior.

The MWA Headquarters renovation started in August of 2021, and will take approximately two years to complete, depending on the availability of materials and equipment. Warren Associates is the Construction Manager and Azar + Walsh is the Architect.

This project features more than 35% minority and 84% local vendor participation, far exceeding the target set by the MWA Board of Directors when this work was open for bidding.



Construction continues on the \$8.5 million rehabilitation project at the MWA Billingslea Campus on Second Street, which is designed to enhance the customer experience.

MWA BEGINS COLLECTION OF STORMWATER UTILITY FEES

Beginning Jan. 1, 2022, the MWA started billing its residential customers a monthly Stormwater Utility Fee of \$4.99 and its non-residential customers a monthly fee of \$4.99 per 2,200 square feet of impervious surface on their property.

Stormwater Services were provided free of charge to MWA customers during the 2021 calendar year. Now, the MWA must transition into billing and collection of Stormwater Utility Fees so services can be sustained through 2022 and beyond.

The Stormwater Utility Fees allow the MWA to provide the following services for residential and non-residential customers:

- Street Sweeping.
- Repairing, Replacing, and Installing Stormwater Pipes.
- Maintaining Stormwater Ditches.
- Cleaning and Maintaining Pipes, Catch Basins, and Culverts.
- Repairing and Replacing Catch Basins.
- Repairing Stormwater Related Sink Holes.
- Maintaining Public Detention Ponds.
- Implementing a Preventive Maintenance Program.
- Managing Water Quality Issues.

Stormwater Service Fee Credits Available

Residential and non-residential MWA customers can apply for Stormwater Utility Fee Credits to reduce monthly charges for public MWA Stormwater Services. Stormwater Credits account for on-site mitigation measures customers implement on their respective properties to reduce stormwater runoff and its impact on the MWA drainage system.

The MWA has received a number of applications from customers for Stormwater Credits thus far, so if you haven't reviewed the credit application to see whether you may qualify for Stormwater Credits, please visit our website at www.maconwater.org, or contact the MWA Stormwater Utility at 478-464-5600.

PAFR TO PROVIDE OVERVIEW OF MWA PERFORMANCE

Please be on the lookout in early Spring for the MWA Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), which provides an easy-to-read overview of the Authority's financial performance during this past fiscal year, which ran from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021.

The PAFR will be available on our website, or printed copies will be on hand upon request at the MWA Headquarters. The Authority provides the PAFR as a more consolidated version of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), also available online, for the benefit of customers.

This past year included continued fiscally sound operations within the current pandemic, the implementation of Stormwater Services at no charge to customers during the first year, capital projects that included the ongoing upgrades to both wastewater treatment plants and the beginning of renovations at the MWA Headquarters.

Please stay tuned for notices on when the PAFR will be available for your review, as we continue our pledge for fiscally responsible operations in an open, transparent business environment.

MWA WATER/SEWER RATES TO ADJUST FOR 2022

With the MWA Board approving the FY 2022 budget during its September Meeting, the previously approved water, sewer and stormwater rates were adopted for calendar year 2022, which went into effect on Jan. 1.

The base rates for water service and sewer service will increase by 25 cents this year, as compared to last year. The consumption charge for water will increase 5 cents per CCF to \$2.68 per CCF, while the consumption charge for sewer will increase 5 cents per CCF to \$2.91 per CCF. One CCF is a unit of measurement for consumption that is equal to approximately 748 gallons.

As an example, a typical family of four using 10 CCF per month (approximately 7,480 gallons) will see an increase in their monthly water and sewer bill of \$1.40.

For more information on 2022 MWA Rates, please visit the "Rates, Fees, and Charges" page within the "Customer Care" section of our website at www.maconwater.org.

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