



# HCWA Currents



NEWS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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## HCWA Helps Henry County Achieve Class 2 ISO Fire Rating

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) played an integral part in helping the Henry County Fire Department achieve its most recent upgrade to an unprecedented Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 2 Rating.

The ISO Fire Rating, or PPC, is a measure that rates communities on how prepared they are to respond to and suppress fires. The numerical ratings range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest possible rating.

Henry County's Fire Department recently received an upgrade from a previous rating of 4 to the current rating of 2, which places it among the top 5.3% of fire departments in the United States. In fact, less than 1% of fire departments in the country have a better rating than Henry County's.

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) reviews a community's Emergency Communications, which accounts for 10% of the grade, as well



**The HCWA Tussahaw Plant, among other assets, provides a water supply that helped Henry County achieve an unprecedented ISO Class 2 Rating, which will result in lower homeowner's insurance premiums for residents.**

as its Fire Department, which accounts for 50% of the grade, and Water Supply, which accounts for 40% of the total grade. The HCWA achieved a score of 36.86 out of the 40 possible points, or a grade of 92.15.

What is the benefit of the ISO Class 2 Rating for HCWA customers? Lower homeowner's insurance premiums!

Not to be overlooked in the HCWA's contribution to this ISO Class 2 Rating is the importance of the 2-mil tax paid by Henry County property owners, which is invested in the water/sewer system — paying off outstanding prior bonds or any additional first lien bonds necessary to fund projects outlined in the Authority's long-term Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The HCWA's current CIP includes investments of approximately \$930 million in water/sewer infrastructure over the next 30 years.

## Staying Safe During the Coronavirus and COVID-19 Pandemic

**Note:** Public activities and access to HCWA facilities are subject to change during the current pandemic, so check out our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com) for the latest updates.

### Public Fishing

While the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center remains closed to the public (until further notice), public fishing is available at the HCWA Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Permits for fishing, canoeing and kayaking are \$45 and can be purchased at our headquarters.

### Fall Hunts

The HCWA has yet to determine if its Fall Hunting Season will be impacted by the pandemic. If the Fall Hunting Season does take place, applications for these free hunts are typically taken through the end of August.

### Our Customer Service Lobby

We're open, but we ask that you use our drive-thru window when making a payment. Customers coming inside the lobby are asked to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

### Deferred Payment Request

If you are experiencing a financial hardship related to the pandemic, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com) to submit a deferred payment request.

## What is a Pressure Reducing Valve and Why do I Need One?

When it comes to water pressure in your home, too much actually is not good! Have you checked to make sure your Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV) is installed and working properly?

Pressure reducing valves are devices that work directly to slow down the pressure of water flowing from our (HCWA Water Distribution) System into your home. They typically are installed on your main water line going into your home, next to the shut-off valve.

Why is a PRV critical for your home's safety? Because every pipe, appliance, and fixture inside was built to withstand a certain level of water pressure, which runs between 60 to 80 PSI. In some areas, the HCWA's water pressure coming into your home might be higher than this.

Without a PRV, your shower heads, toilets, faucets, washer and dishwasher, water heater, and pipe joints can wear out and fail if they are regularly operating with higher than normal water pressure. Not only will you have to replace such hardware, but you may experience water leaks as well.

To make sure your PRV is installed and working properly, contact your local plumber. For more information, check out the Pressure Reducing Valve page under the Customer Care section of our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



## SCTC Training Future Water Professionals

The partnership between the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) and Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) continues to bear fruit, as both parties work together to facilitate a successful Water Quality Technician Technical Certification Program. This program recruits and trains future water professionals, especially water and wastewater plant operators.

The Water Quality Technician Technical Certification Program requires four courses totaling 12 credit hours, which are offered at SCTC for an affordable tuition rate of \$100 per credit hour.

During this Fall Semester, which begins in August, and the Winter 2021 Semester, which begins in January, all four courses required for Certification as a Water Quality Technician are available.

Those four courses are: ESCI 1010 –



**Belinda Bentoski, Water Quality Technician Program Coordinator, introduces new students to the course work at Southern Crescent Technical College.**

Occupational Safety & Health Regulations; ESCI 1120 – Introduction to Water Treatment Processes; ESCI 1140 – Wastewater Treatment; and ESCI 1260 – Water Supply.

Once students complete the four courses, they are prepared to take the state exam for their Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators Class III License. Then, following three months of on-the-job training, they can obtain their Class III License.

With uncertainty in the job market during the pandemic, the Water Quality Technician Program offers a promising career path for those who might be interested in working in the water industry.

For more information, contact Alexis Byrd at 770-914-4411 and [Alexis.Byrd@sctech.edu](mailto:Alexis.Byrd@sctech.edu), or Sandra Patterson at 706-646-6235 and [Sandra.Patterson@sctech.edu](mailto:Sandra.Patterson@sctech.edu).



## Water Quality Report Provides Evidence of Drinking Water Safety

While it's difficult to find any good to come from the Coronavirus and COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps reassurance that local tap water has remained safe and clean for consumption is one less thing you have to worry about.

The Henry County Water Quality Report, which is also referred to as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), provides empirical scientific evidence that HCWA tap water meets or exceeds the highest regulatory requirements for drinking water safety. The HCWA had no violations of drinking water standards this past year.

The 2020 Henry County Water Quality Report includes measures of regulated substances found at the source, during drinking water production at both HCWA water treatment plants, and within the HCWA distribution system. These lab results



provide consumers with the assurance that the detected amounts of any potential contaminants are well within the limits allowed by Georgia EPD, in accordance with federal guidelines of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Potential contaminants that require testing include those categorized as organic, inorganic, or microbiological, or as the result of disinfectants or disinfectant by-products used in the drinking water treatment process. The Henry County Water Quality Report also outlines the treatment technologies and processes used by the HCWA in its water system operations to assure continuous production and distribution of safe drinking water.

The 2020 Henry County Water Quality Report is available on the Authority's website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>.

### Commercial Customers Making WaterSense

#### HCWA giving away free water efficient spray valves for commercial kitchens

As a U.S. EPA WaterSense promotional partner, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) promotes wise water use inside homes and businesses.



Most HCWA WaterSense promotions encourage residents to use WaterSense labeled toilets, fixtures and appliances, which are more water efficient. But WaterSense practices apply to businesses, too, especially

restaurants and other food service establishments.

According to EPA statistics, Pre-Rinse Spray Valves (PRSV), which are devices used to rinse dishes prior to putting them in the dish washer, can account for one-third of the total water used within a commercial kitchen. More efficient, WaterSense PRSV's can reduce that water use by 30 to 70 percent! So, water efficient sprayers not only save water, they save a commercial customer money, too!

To encourage commercial customers to upgrade their kitchens with more water efficient spray valves, the HCWA is giving away five free WaterSense PRSV's to those who qualify. A qualified commercial kitchen is one built prior to 2006, when all spray heads were required to meet the more stringent water efficiency standards outlined by EPA.

While the HCWA cannot install these water efficient spray heads for its commercial customers, these fixtures are valued at \$50. And since they only use 1.2 gallons per minute (at 60 PSI), the cost savings are significant!

For more information on water efficient spray valves, check out the "Commercial Water Saving Tips" among the "Water Conservation" pages of the "Community & Education" section of our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).

### Is Your Landscape Water Smart?

If you want a beautiful yard without the astronomical water bill that comes from excessive outdoor watering, consider a landscape that's "Water-Smart" and promotes "WaterSense."

Some of the keys to Water-Smart landscapes include: planning ahead with water efficiency in mind, choosing the right (drought tolerant) plants, preparing your soil and caring for its

health, as well as practicing proper maintenance of your lawn and landscape.

The HCWA is a U.S. EPA WaterSense promotional partner, advocating for wise water use in and around the home and office. The WaterSense Water-Smart Landscape Guide is available on our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com), where we also provide indoor and outdoor water conservation tips.



## Georgia Rivers Alive Honors HCWA Cleanup

Georgia Rivers Alive recently honored the HCWA for hosting the best river cleanup in the state among clubs or civic groups. The Authority is the Rivers Alive 2019 Georgia Club winner as a result of the river cleanup the HCWA organized with Youth Leadership Henry.

Due to the pandemic, the HCWA was not able to receive this statewide award in person, nor was the Authority able to host this year's Youth Leadership Henry Class for a site visit.

Last year, however, the HCWA hosted 27



**The HCWA is the Rivers Alive 2019 Georgia Club winner for hosting the best river cleanup in the state among youth groups. The 2019 Youth Leadership Henry class (pictured) toured HCWA facilities and organized the award-winning Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup.**

Henry County students for an overview of the utility, tours of facilities, and a class service project, which was an official Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup event.

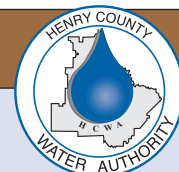
Youth Leadership Henry is a leadership program for high school sophomores sponsored by the Henry County Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of Youth Leadership Henry is to identify emerging leaders, to bring them together in an atmosphere conducive to the free exchange of ideas, and to provide them with an enlightening educational experience.

### ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter  
Warren Holder  
Carlotta Harrell  
Cletonya LaGrand Stidom  
Zuwena Poole

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Vice Chairman  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Member  
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Lindy D. Farmer, Jr.  
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