

HCWA CURRENTS

Volume 23, Issue 3
Fall 2023



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

Edición en español disponible
en línea en hcwa.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS OF CUBIHATCHA KIDS FISHING DAY

HCWA Doubles its numbers with 237 kids and 425 participants this year

The Second Annual Cubihatcha Kids Fishing Day doubled its numbers this year, when 237 kids and 425 participants enjoyed a free day of fishing on June 10, at the Long Branch Reservoir located adjacent to the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center in Locust Grove.

Tristan Hom reeled in the Biggest Catch of the Day with his 5 pound and 1 ounce catfish. Other age group winners included:

Winners of the 6 and under age group:

- 1st place – Paislee Tatum: 3 pounds
- 2nd place – Colter Kuhn: 2 pounds, 13 ounces
- 3rd place – Baron Loth: 1 pound, 9 ounces

Winners of the 7 to 12 age group:

- 1st place – Tristan Hom: 5 pounds, 1 ounce
- 2nd place – Corben Kuhn: 4 pounds, 14 ounces
- 3rd place – Rylnn Godfrey: 3 pounds, 5 ounces

Winners of the 13 to 17 age group:

- 1st place – Aleia Kuhn: 3 pounds, 15 ounces
- 2nd place – Carter Gibbs: 3 pounds, 12 ounces
- 3rd place – Hailey Adams: 3 pounds, 4 ounces

The HCWA offers a regular fishing season to customers from March to November, when the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs are open on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with the purchase of a Reservoir Use Permit.

Thanks to our many event sponsors, partners, and volunteers, this year's Cubihatcha Kids Fishing Day was a tremendous success! For more information on HCWA fishing, including a video, photo galleries, and a list of sponsors from the Kids Fishing Day, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



Prize winners were among the many smiling faces at the second annual Cubihatcha Kids Fishing Day, held at the HCWA Long Branch Reservoir.



Micah Cook, 8, casts his line at a good spot during the second annual Cubihatcha Kids Fishing Day.

HCWA HONORS SECOND ANNUAL CITIZEN ACADEMY GRADUATES

Many thanks and congratulations to the second graduating class of the HCWA Citizen Academy. These 15 Henry County residents completed a six-part program introducing them to the utility's facilities, operations, and staff of water professionals.

The 2023 HCWA Citizen Academy Graduates included: Nya Anderson, Jamaine Banks, Willie Canidate, Adrienne Coleman, Joy Dunbar, Glendora Dvine, Kayla Dvine, Glenda Hargrove, Gregory Heyward, Brandi Jackson, Tammy Lenoir, Roque Romero, Joseph Scott, Don Veum, and James Young.

The second annual HCWA Citizen Academy featured three classes covering the topics of: "Where does my water come from," "HCWA planning and operations," and "How to become a water advocate." In addition, Citizen Academy graduates attended three VIP tours of the Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility, the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, and the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

For the complete feature on the HCWA Citizen Academy, including a video and photo galleries from this year's event, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



The 2023 HCWA Citizen Academy graduating class.



Dustin Powell (far left), HCWA Operator at the Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility, leads Citizen Academy participants on a tour of this state-of-the-art wastewater plant.



The 2023 class of the HCWA Citizen Academy enjoys a boat tour of the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center and Long Branch Reservoir captained by HCWA Naturalist Rebecca Bodron.

WATER QUALITY REPORT PROVIDES EVIDENCE OF HCWA TAP WATER SAFETY

We have published our annual Henry County Water Quality Report to provide scientific evidence that we have the highest quality tap water possible, while offering our customers the peace of mind that comes from knowing your drinking water is safe to drink.

The 2023 Henry County Water Quality Report includes extensive results of laboratory data collected from water quality tests conducted during the 2022 calendar year, which indicate that we have no violations of permitted levels of regulated substances in our tap water.

Those regulated substances are categorized as organic, inorganic, microbiological, or as the result of disinfectants or disinfectant by-products used in the drinking water treatment process. The lab data includes measures of these regulated substances found at the source, during drinking water production, and within the HCWA distribution system.

The Henry County Water Quality Report is available on our website at <http://www.waterqualityreport.hcwa.com>. In addition, hard copies are available at the HCWA headquarters, or customers can request a copy be sent to them by contacting us at 770-957-6659.

LET'S TALK TAP

EPA-Regulated and Environmentally Friendly



TAP WATER VS. BOTTLED WATER

COST

Bottled Water: \$1.50/gallon
Tap Water: \$.005/gallon

Bottled water costs 300x more than tap water!



LET US TURN YOU ON TO TAP!
www.hcwa.com

A "WATER WORKS" SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE FOR RISING 9TH GRADERS

The HCWA hosted the first "Water Works" Experience for rising 9th graders. This summer camp provided students an up-close look at HCWA operations through tours of the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, the Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility, as well as the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center and Long Branch Reservoir.

In addition, students concluded their week of summer camp at the HCWA Headquarters, where they learned how to write a resume and complete a job application, as well as conduct a mock interview, thanks to the help of HCWA board members and staff. The Authority also provided lessons in financial planning and leadership development.

The overall goal of the "Water Works" Experience was to encourage students to consider career opportunities in the water industry, the benefits of being a water professional, as well as how they might make a difference in the health and safety of their community.

But most importantly, the summer camp helped students brush up on professional and career development skills needed to enter today's workforce.

Those participating in the first "Water Works" Experience included: Brielle McNealy, Grant Zeisig, Joshua Lee, Kaden Hyde, Karis Hyde, Messiah Mitchell, Michael Minugh, Omari Drayton, Quintin Phillips, and Tamara Carnell.

For more information on the "Water Works" Experience, including a video and photo galleries from this year's summer camp, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



REMEMBER OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE AND WISE WATER USE TIPS

Remember, the current outdoor water use schedule allows for watering between the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m., which is the ideal time to water outdoors anyway, to reduce evaporation.

There are outdoor water use exemptions for watering under special circumstances. For more information on those, please search for the "non-drought outdoor water use" page at <https://epd.georgia.gov>.

Some additional reminders to help you save water:

- New homeowners, remember to check your irrigation systems if you have them, to make sure they are set properly.
- We have a tiered rate structure to help you save money through water conservation.
- We have free water efficiency kits available to you at our headquarters, while supplies last.
- We have more tips on our website, including a water savings video, at <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/water-conservation.cms>.

For more information on outdoor watering, contact us at 678-583-3809.



Lindsey Sanders (right), HCWA Communications and Regulatory Coordinator, teaches Kaden Hyde (left) and Grant Zeisig about the water treatment and filtration process.

Rising 9th graders enjoy their first day of the "Water Works Experience" summer camp with HCWA staff at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

HUNTING SEASON FEATURES TWO YOUTH HUNTS AND A VETERAN'S HUNT

Applications for the lottery for participants closes Sept. 22

The 2023 HCWA Hunting Season will consist of two Youth Hunts for kids between the ages of 10-17, on the Saturdays of Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, as well as a Veteran's Hunt for those honorably discharged, active duty, or reservists, on Saturday Nov. 18.

These hunts will take place at the Walnut Creek Land Application System (LAS) site in McDonough, and only Henry County residents and HCWA customers are eligible to participate.



Applications are available on our website at www.hcwa.com, or you can pick one up at the Cubihatcha Center in Locust Grove during the operating hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, from now until **Sept. 22, which is the last day applications will be received.**

Completed applications and proof of residency must be returned to the Cubihatcha Center or emailed to Jeff Scott at jeffrey.scott@hcwa.com or Suzanne Earls at suzanne.earls@hcwa.com. Those lucky hunters selected will be notified after the lottery is held on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

For more information and updates, contact the Cubihatcha Center staff at 678-583-5603, or follow the Cubihatcha Facebook page.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO CUSTOMERS FACING HARDSHIP

There are several ways HCWA customers can receive financial assistance, thanks to our partnerships with local non-profit organizations and agencies.

First, generous customers who "round up" their monthly bill provide funds for our Charitable Assistance Program (CAP) to help other customers pay their monthly water bill. Our CAP is administered by our friends at Connecting Henry, who you can contact at 770-274-3642 or www.connectinghenry.org.

Second, we can direct our customers to the Henry County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), which provides financial assistance for rent, utilities (including water), and security deposits. For more information, call 855-436-7926 or go to www.henryerap.org.

Third, the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federal program to help low-income residents pay for water and wastewater services, if those utility bills are in your name, and you can verify a financial burden. Our partner agency for LIHWAP is the Clayton County Community Services Authority, who can be reached at 404-363-0575 or www.claytoncountycsa.org.

Finally, we offer special payment arrangements for those customers needing extra time to get caught up on their bill. For more information, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY OCT. 12, 2023



Volunteers and Sponsors are needed! You can make a difference in our mission to protect our water quality by joining us for Rivers Alive! This is a great event for companies to use as a team building opportunity as well!

For more information, please contact Lindsey Sanders at lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com or 678-583-3809.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

The HCWA and Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center have news, updates, customer tips, event invites, and other valuable public education for your benefit, on their respective Facebook pages.

For more information on Cubihatcha social media, please contact the Center's staff at 678-583-3930, and for HCWA social media, please contact our Communications Specialist, Kaylan Peek, at education@hcwa.com.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter
Sandra Rozier
Myra Lott
Warren Holder
Bruce B. Holmes
Fred Mays

Chairman
Vice Chair
Secretary/Treasurer
Member
Member
Member

Tony V. Carnell
General Manager
Karen Lake-Thompson
Clerk



HENRY COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
1695 Highway 20 West
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-6659
www.hcwa.com