

# HCWA CURRENTS

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

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**CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY**

## Recent Events & Activities Reflect Black History Month

Whether recognizing an outstanding employee, hiring a new General Manager, re-electing Officers, or serving the community, recent events and activities at the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) have reflected the salience of Black History Month in February, as well as the utility's commitment to diversity and inclusion.



Tony V. Carnell (center), the first African American General Manager of the HCWA, presents Alton Head (left) with the General Manager's Award.

## ALTON HEAD HONORED FOR SERVICE

The HCWA recently honored Customer Service Technician Alton Head with the General Manager's Award, which is given to an Authority employee who demonstrates a commitment to their work at the utility and a love for public outreach and service to others in the community.

In addition to working the past five years at the HCWA, Mr. Head is Senior Pastor at Word of Life Christian Ministry in McDonough, in addition to being the Commander of the American Legion, Post 516. Through all of these avenues of service – as an Authority employee, pastor, and commander – he leads efforts throughout metro Atlanta to refurbish homes of veterans, especially those with disabilities, provide disaster relief for hurricane victims across the South, and host events such as Veteran's Luncheons, Dinners, Parades, and more.

"Alton has a heart of gold that's dedicated to service with compassion for others," says Tony V. Carnell, HCWA General Manager, who presented Mr. Head with the

General Manager's Award at the February Board Meeting. "He is driven to fill needs in the community. That strong work ethic he exhibits here at work carries over to his community service as well."



HCWA General Manager Tony Carnell (far right) speaks to Junior Commissioners about careers in the water profession during their tour of the Tussahaw Water Plant last year.

## TONY CARNELL SELECTED AS AUTHORITY GM

Tony V. Carnell officially took the reins of the HCWA as General Manager on Jan. 1, becoming the first African American chief executive in the Authority's 60-year history.

Mr. Carnell follows Lindy D. Farmer, Jr., as HCWA General Manager, following Mr. Farmer's retirement at the end of last year, after leading the Authority for 40 years. Mr. Carnell served previously as Mr. Farmer's Deputy Manager from 2014 until being promoted to General Manager.

Mr. Carnell holds his Professional Engineer (PE) Certification in Georgia, which he attained in 2006. He's a graduate of Southern Polytechnic State University, with a Bachelor of Science Degree, after receiving his Associate Degree from Clayton State University. Prior to joining the HCWA, Mr. Carnell first worked for the Georgia Department of Transportation after graduation from college.

When asked about the historical significance of his promotion, Mr. Carnell deflected the attention and noted how many people have encouraged and supported him in his career path, from family and friends to fellow HCWA employees and water professionals.

"I understand the historical significance of it (becoming HCWA General Manager), but it's probably a bigger deal for my family and friends from the neighborhood, who have told me how proud they are of me," says Carnell. "I'm humbled and honored, but I owe a great deal to them and so many others who helped me along the way."

Please check out the full stories on Mr. Carnell and Mr. Head on our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



## HCWA BOARD RE-ELECTS SLATE OF OFFICERS

During its January Meeting, the HCWA Board of Directors unanimously re-elected its slate of officers to serve another term, which includes all female African Americans in each of the three leadership positions for another year.

Cletonya LaGrand, who represents Henry County's District 2, will serve a second year as HCWA Chair, and she will be joined by Sandra Rozier, representing District 4, who is the first female African American to serve as Vice Chair, and Siddiqah Gibson, representing District 5, a female African American who will serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

Rounding out the remaining members of the six-member HCWA Board of Directors are: Jimmy Carter, representing District 3, Warren Holder, representing District 1, and Fred Mays, who is a Member-At-Large.

HCWA Board Members are appointed by their respective Henry County Commissioners. The HCWA Board typically meets on the second Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m. at Authority Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. The schedule for Board Meetings, Board Member profiles, and Board activities are provided on the Authority's website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



The recently re-elected Officers of the HCWA Board of Directors include Chair Cletonya LaGrand (center, left), Vice-Chair Sandra Rozier (center, right), and Secretary/Treasurer Siddiqah Gibson (second from left). Remaining HCWA Board Members include: Jimmy Carter (far left), Fred Mays (second from right), and Warren Holder (far right).



## HCWA JOINS MLK DAY SERVICE PROJECT

The HCWA joined Henry County District 4 Commissioner Vivian Thomas and several other community partners for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Metro Atlanta Service Project, to celebrate the MLK holiday on Monday Jan. 17.

During this MLK Day of Service, the HCWA partnered with Commissioner Thomas and her Junior Commissioners, 100 Black Men of South Metro Atlanta, Jack & Jill Lake Spivey Chapter, Connecting Henry, M&M Hope House, Team HOPE, Urban Air McDonough, Southern Crescent Veteran's Service, Henry County Parks & Recreation, and approximately 140 volunteers, to provide more than 300 winter care packages – consisting of food, winter clothing and accessories – to veterans and homeless citizens in McDonough, Hapeville and Atlanta.

"The MLK Metro Atlanta Service Project was our way to commemorate Dr. King's legacy and celebrate the Holiday through service, by doing; so, we got to work, providing winter care packages for those in need," says Commissioner Thomas. "Thanks to all of our volunteers, we collected food, clothing and supplies, assembled the care packages, and then distributed them throughout the community. We went to three homeless shelters and other areas where we knew the homeless and veterans would be. It was a partnership of love that made this possible, and it reflected the spirit of Dr. King and what we can accomplish when we come together to serve others."

Please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com) for a photo gallery from this year's MLK Day Service Project.

(Top Left Photo) HCWA Vice-Chair Sandra Rozier (left) and daughter Mary deliver care packages. (Top Right Photo) Volunteers prepare care packages. (Bottom Photo) Junior Commissioners prepare to distribute care packages to veterans and homeless citizens.





Kim Pace (center, left) and Lesa Walker (center, right) receive the GAWP Water Distribution System Platinum Award.



Ray Sanders (center, left) and Tara Brown (center, right) receive the GAWP Collection System Platinum Award. Brown also was inducted into the Golden Manhole Society.



Stephanie Martin (right) receives the GAWP Laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control Award for the Walnut Creek Plant.



Scott Sage (left) and Patrick Kelley receive the GAWP Master Plan Spotlight Award for long-term planning.

## HCWA HONORED FOR SYSTEM EXCELLENCE

The HCWA is once again among the very best water and sewer systems in the state. The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) recently honored the Authority with the following awards:

- Collection System Platinum Award for achieving a score of 95% or higher on the annual review of its sewer system for five (5) consecutive years. This marks 10 consecutive years, in fact, the HCWA has achieved a grade of 95% or higher.
- Water Distribution System Platinum Award for scoring 95% or higher on the annual review of its water system for five consecutive years. The HCWA has graded 95 or higher for six (6) straight years.
- Master Plan Spotlight Award for the most outstanding water and wastewater master plan to cover 30 years of long-term planning, from 2020 to 2050.
- Laboratory Quality Assurance/Quality Control Award for the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility.
- Tara Brown, HCWA Manager of Sewer Line Maintenance, was inducted into the prestigious Golden Manhole Society of the Georgia Section of the Water Environment Federation (WEF).

## TOILET REBATES AVAILABLE

One of the many ways the HCWA promotes wise water use among its customers is by providing financial incentives through our Toilet Rebate Program.

HCWA customers may receive a credit of \$75 on their monthly water bill for upgrading their home with an Ultra High Efficient Toilet (UHET) of 1.1 gallons per flush or less. Rebates are available as long as budgeted funds last and are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information on our Toilet Rebate Program and how to apply, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/residential-water-conservation.cms>.

## LEAK DETECTION: FIXING LEAKS SAVES YOU \$\$\$

Did you know that the water lost from typical household leaks could fill an outdoor swimming pool in just a year's time?

Leaks not only waste valuable water, but they cost you money as well. The HCWA has a Leak Detection Program that involves regular inspections of the water distribution system to check for leaks. You can do that, too, at your home or business!

With Fix A Leak Week being recognized nationally from March 14-20, this is a good time of year for HCWA customers to check for household water leaks.

During Fix A Leak Week, the HCWA also will host a customer appreciation on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday March 17. Customers who visit the HCWA headquarters that day will receive water conservation "Pots of Gold," which will include leak detection tablets, water efficiency kits, and other goodies.

For more information on how to find and fix your water leaks, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/how-to-fix-a-leak.cms>.

## CONGRATULATIONS GEORGIA MODEL WATER TOWER COMPETITION WINNERS!

- First Place – “The Pickle Tower” submitted by Dutchtown Middle School Students Cahleb Thornton, Shiv Patel, Kush Patel, and David Bui; teacher Debbie Sechrist.
- Second Place – the “Cup of Water” submitted by Chrisette Small from Austin Road Middle School; teacher Garynne Parks.
- Third Place – “Chug Away” submitted by Carter Ivey from Locust Grove Middle School; teacher Christy Collier.
- Best Interview & Presentation was awarded to “The Mushroom

House,” submitted by Mina Nguyen, Vivian Tran, Alicia Truong, and Keyani Furtch, from Dutchtown Middle School.

- Best Engineering Design also was awarded to the aforementioned team from Dutchtown Middle School for “The Mushroom House.”
- Most Artistic Design was awarded to Caeden Henry, from Austin Road Middle School, for his “Senor Eggington” model water tower.

For the complete story and photo gallery, please visit us at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



Winners from Dutchtown Middle School include (left to right): Alicia Truong, Vivian Tran, Keyani Furtch, Mina Nguyen, David Bui, Kush Patel, Shiv Patel, and Cahleb Thornton, with Assistant Principal Yolanda Oatts (back left), Principal Gabriel Wiley (back center), and Teacher Debbie Sechrist (far right).



Second place Winner Chrisette Small (right), with Teacher Garynne Parks, from Austin Road Middle School.



Third place winner Carter Ivey (right), with his Teacher Christy Collier, from Locust Grove Middle School.

## HCWA FISHING SEASON IS MARCH 2 – NOV. 27

The 2022 Fishing Season at HCWA Reservoirs is scheduled for March 2 – Nov. 27. During these months, the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs will be open to the public for fishing and boating on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., as well as the Mondays of Memorial Day (May 30) and Labor Day (Sept. 5).

To gain access to these reservoirs, you must be a Henry County resident, property owner, or HCWA customer. You also must obtain a reservoir use permit from Authority headquarters for \$45 (or \$25 for seniors, veterans, and citizens with disabilities).

For more information on rules and regulations for fishing or boating on HCWA reservoirs, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/fishing-and-reservoir-use.cms>.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR CUSTOMERS

Many HCWA employees and customers have elected to participate in the Authority's Charitable Assistance Program (CAP), and you can, too.

Our CAP provides an opportunity for generous customers to “round up” their bill, with these funds used exclusively to assist eligible customers with their HCWA water and sewer bill payments.

To enroll in our CAP, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/customer-care/charitableassistanceprogram.cms>. And for those seeking help with paying their water/sewer bill, please contact Connecting Henry, our local administrator of the CAP, at [www.connectinghenry.org](http://www.connectinghenry.org).

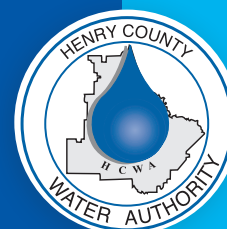
For a complete overview of Financial Assistance available to HCWA customers, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/customer-care/financial-assistance.cms>.

## ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Cletonya LaGrand  
Sandra Rozier  
Siddiq Gibson  
Jimmy Carter  
Warren Holder  
Fred Mays

Chair  
Vice Chair  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Member  
Member  
Member

Tony V. Carnell  
General Manager  
Kimberly Turner Osborne  
Clerk  
Karen Lake-Thompson  
Deputy Clerk



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