



## HCWA hosts approximately 3,000 third grades for field trips at Cubihatcha

This fall, HCWA staff and volunteer faculty welcomed more than 3,000 Henry County third graders and their teachers to the Cubihatcha Center in Locust Grove for classes and activities in outdoor education.

These annual field trips for the "Cubihatcha Kids" were established by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, a non-profit formed by the HCWA, Henry County Board of Education, and others.

The event provides these students with opportunities for experiential or "hands-on" learning of the third grade Georgia Standards for Excellence and Applied STEM curricula.



Lorenzo Bennett (far right), HCWA Naturalist at the Cubihatcha Center, leads students through the community garden on site.

Some of the topics students enjoyed during their visit to the Cubihatcha Center included: the water cycle, properties of water, gardening and farming, ecosystems, wildlife and habitats, stormwater pollution, environmental protection, and more.

To date, Authority officials estimate more than 50,000 "Cubihatcha Kids" have participated in these annual field trips since the event's first year in 2003.

For the complete feature on the "Cubihatcha Kids" field trips, including photo galleries, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



The Georgia Farm Bureau's Danny Harvey explains the importance of honey bees during the "Cubihatcha Kids" field trips this fall.

## Want to do business with the Authority?

The HCWA hosted its Fall Supplier Conference on Oct. 24, welcoming potential vendors who want to do business with the utility.

As noted during the conference, the HCWA utilizes Bidnet Direct for its public bidding process. In addition, the Authority Board of Directors has implemented several policies within the last few years to encourage participation in open bids by female-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned local businesses.

For more information on how to do business with the HCWA and its procurement process, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/about-us/procurement.cms>.



Rodney Stroud (right), HCWA Procurement Compliance Specialist, speaks with a guest during the recent Fall Supplier Conference.

## The importance of water pressure and Pressure Reducer Valves

Water pressure can create challenges for a water utility and its customers, which is why we encourage you to adhere to home plumbing standards and make sure you have a pressure reducing valve (PRV) installed and operating properly at your home or business.

Because water coming into your meter may be under higher pressure than what's recommended for home fixtures and appliances, a PRV works directly to slow down the water pressure coming into your home.



Home fixtures and appliances are designed to withstand a certain level of water pressure, typically between 60-80 psi. These items can wear down if continually subjected to high pressures. So please make sure your PRV is installed and operating properly to protect your property.



For more helpful information on water lines and water pressure, please visit our website at <https://www.hcwa.com/customer-care/helpful-resources-and-education.cms>.

## Drinking Water Safety includes protection from lead and copper

According to federal regulations for drinking water safety, water utilities such as the HCWA must check the water lines in their distribution system and among customer homes to determine if lead and/or copper are present.

The HCWA met the Oct. 16th deadline for completing this system review, and officials are happy to report they did not identify any lead service lines within the HCWA system.

Lead in water is caused by corrosion of older pipes, plumbing fixtures, and faucets, typically limited to homes built prior to 1986. The HCWA has been testing for lead in our water for years, and we have had no water quality violations as a result.

Remember, the HCWA owns and maintains the water lines from our water plants and distribution system all the way up to your meter, but the water lines from your meter to inside your home are your responsibility.

If you would like more information, or to look up your address to see the results of our lead and copper water line inventory, please visit our website at: <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/lead-awareness.cms>.

## HCWA receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recently recognized the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for this past fiscal year, which marks the 14th consecutive year the Authority has been recognized with this industry honor.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The news of this Certificate Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting follows similar good news earlier this year when the HCWA received an upgrade in its bond rating from Aa2 to Aa1 from Moody's Ratings.

For the complete feature on the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, please visit the news archives on our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



Dave Peterson, HCWA Division Manager of Finance and CFO, was a guest speaker at the 10th annual Water Finance Conference earlier this year. The HCWA Finance Department was honored recently with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.



## HCWA joins community partners to assist with hurricane relief efforts

HCWA employees joined several community partners this fall to assist those in need throughout the region who are suffering from the effects of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

HCWA emergency response and disaster relief assistance began with Authority crews working with Henry County EMA officials to assist with calls from citizens reporting issues throughout the community, such as downed trees blocking roadways, severe flooding, power outages, and more, following Hurricane Helene.

In addition, the Authority's Todd Brackin, HCWA Conservation Enforcement Coordinator, delivered bottled water provided by the Authority for those in immediate need in South Georgia.

The HCWA then joined forces with other community partners to collect additional bottled water, food, non-perishable items, health and personal items, for citizens in Berrien County, Georgia.

This community food drive was spearheaded by American Legion Post 516, under the direction of Commander Alton Head, who is a Field Safety Inspector for the HCWA. Additional partners included Stockbridge Community Church and Pastor Jeff Davis, Henry County District 1 Commissioner Johnny Wilson, Henry County Public Safety, and other county departments, agencies, and community organizations.

Finally, HCWA staff from the Water Loss Department made their way to Atlanta Motor Speedway (AMS) to provide food for those who had evacuated Florida during Hurricane Milton.

For the complete news story on HCWA hurricane relief efforts, as well as tips on how you can prepare for natural disasters, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



Alton Head, Commander of the American Legion Post 516 and HCWA Field Safety Inspector, spearheads the most recent hurricane relief efforts.

## Volunteers collect 660 pounds of trash during Henry County Rivers Alive!



Volunteers joined the HCWA to collect 660 pounds of trash from areas around the Gardner Reservoir during this year's recent Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup.



Brook Jackson, HCWA Water Loss Supervisor, carries away trash collected by volunteers during the annual Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup.

### Be the solution to water pollution!

The HCWA, with the help of Henry County Stormwater Management and approximately 30 volunteers, collected 660 pounds of trash during the recent Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup.

The efforts of the HCWA and guests from Leadership Henry and Henry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), among others, will help protect the water quality in the Authority's Gardner Reservoir – the site of this year's event. A special thanks to Honey Bucket as well for providing a portable restroom for the volunteers.

For tips on how you can prevent water pollution, as well as a photo gallery from Rivers Alive, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).

## HCWA Hosts Second Annual "Water Works" Summer Camp for 9th Graders

Prior to the start of the school year, the HCWA hosted the second annual "Water Works" Summer Camp Experience for rising 9th graders in Henry County Schools.

During this event, HCWA water professionals introduced campers to career opportunities within the water industry, while teaching them professional and leadership skills.

The students enjoyed hands-on activities such as: water testing in the water quality laboratory, a boat ride on a drinking water reservoir, tours of a water and wastewater plant, Q & A sessions and words of advice from HCWA employees, mock interviews with HCWA managers, tips on writing/building a resume' and more.

For the complete feature and photo galleries from Water Works, please visit our website at [www.hcwa.com](http://www.hcwa.com).



Brandon Dubbs (center), HCWA Operator, takes students in the Water Works Summer Camp on a tour of the Tussaw Plant.



Michael Dodson (left), HCWA Collection System Operator, shows Olivia Jones, Water Works camper, how to view sewer lines using a push camera.

## Winterizing your home should start with protecting water lines



Have you prepared your home for the freezing temperatures this coming winter?

The HCWA is encouraging customers to weatherize their homes, especially exposed water lines and irrigation systems, to prevent leaks or pipe bursts during the colder weather this winter. Frozen water lines can result in water loss that can damage your property and cost you money.

We have several weatherization tips for you to consider within the Customer Care section of our website. Please check out these potential water saving tips at <https://www.hcwa.com/customer-care/helpful-resources.cms>.

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