



HCWA Currents



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

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Clean, safe drinking water the top priority for HCWA

With the current water crisis in Flint, Michigan gaining national headlines, we are reminded of the importance of clean, safe drinking water. Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) customers can rest assured that their drinking water meets or exceeds the highest industry standards for water quality.

The evidence is in the annual water quality report, which is available on the Authority's website at www.hcwa.com/water-quality. There you will find insights on what is in your drinking water and why.

HCWA collects samples from around 120 sites to conduct water quality tests within its own certified laboratory, which received the 2015 Water Quality Laboratory Award for quality assurance and quality control from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP). The Authority also collects samples to send out for tests conducted by the state at Georgia EPD's own independent lab facilities.

The Authority most recently completed required testing of lead and copper in June of 2015. The results revealed that no water samples were above the action level of 15 parts per billion. These tests are taken at customer taps, and under worst-case scenarios, yet there still were no incidents where levels of lead or copper were above allowable limits.

In addition, the HCWA water distribution system is relatively young by

industry standards, so it has no lead fittings, service lines, or other lead-containing items, which can create problems for older systems.

Finally, the HCWA drinking water production and distribution process includes the addition of a corrosion inhibitor to keep any lead from leaching into finishing drinking water, even when consumed in older homes that may have lead or tin plumbing components.

Both of the HCWA drinking water production plants have received such top industry honors as the GAWP Plant of the Year Award and Platinum Award, for operating at least five consecutive years without a permit violation. The HCWA Tussahaw and Towaliga Plants have nine consecutive years without a permit violation.

In addition, the HCWA received the 2015 GAWP Gold Award for its drinking water distribution system, for achieving a grade of 95% or higher on its annual industry evaluation. This most recent audit of the HCWA drinking water distribution system resulted in a grade of 102.8.

"To assure our customers are drinking the safest and cleanest water possible, we continually invest in upgrades to our system and stay well ahead of

regulatory standards, because protecting water quality and public health are at the heart of our mission as a water authority," says Lindy Farmer, HCWA General Manager.



Board Member Spotlight:

Carlotta Harrell helping to Get Georgia Reading

When Carlotta Harrell accepted an invitation to public service from her District 5 Commissioner Bruce Holmes, she welcomed the opportunity to sit on the Board of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA). But her public service didn't stop there.

Upon a request from Commissioner Holmes' wife Toni, Harrell now sits on the Board for the Henry County Committee of "Get Georgia Reading," a statewide initiative with the backing of Gov. Nathan Deal and his wife, First Lady

Sandra Deal. Gov. Deal has literacy as his number one education priority for Georgia.

The goal of Get Georgia Reading is to assure that all children in Georgia are on a path to reading proficiently by the end of the third grade. Studies show that if students fall behind in being able to read at grade level, they are much more likely to enter the criminal justice system.

Harrell has professional experience in law enforcement and offers a sobering reminder that the Georgia Department of Corrections uses reading test scores to budget for prison needs in the future.

So how can you help Get Georgia Reading? Harrell says the Henry County Committee is coming up with ideas and strategies and welcomes citizen input and involvement, such as:

- Parents reading to their children.
- Neighbors encouraging young parents to read to their children.
- Volunteers reading to students in local schools.
- Residents donating books to schools, public libraries, literacy agencies, etc.

For more information on how you can Get Georgia Reading, contact HCWA District 5 Board Member Carlotta Harrell at 770-597-7544 or carlottaharrell@aol.com; more insights on this campaign of the Georgia Family Connection Partnership are available at www.getgeorgiareading.org.



When Carlotta Harrell signed her oath of office to begin her term as a Board Member of the HCWA in 2013, it didn't mean her other public service would cease. Instead, she also sits on the Henry County Committee for "Get Georgia Reading."

It's not too late to insulate those pipes

With winter upon us, and cold weather expected to last into spring, it's not too late for HCWA customers to prevent potential water loss from leaks or pipe bursts caused by frozen water lines.

Henry County Water has winterization tips, along with other valuable customer information, available on its website at www.hcwa.com. Check out the news archives for this season's feature on winterization.

Of course, you also can contact HCWA Customer Service at 770-957-6659 for these and other wise water use tips.



March 14-20, 2016 Fix a Leak Week

This year, national Fix a Leak Week is scheduled for March 14-20, 2016, and the HCWA will kick off festivities affiliated with this EPA WaterSense program by hosting a local event at The Home Depot in McDonough on Saturday March 12.

Employees from HCWA will be providing tips on how to find and fix leaks, as well as other insights on wise water use at home. In addition, Authority employees will demonstrate how the utility works hard to detect and repair leaks within its own system, to reduce water loss.

Check out our website at www.hcwa.com for more info and Fix a Leak tips, or contact the Authority's Tara Brown at 678-583-3810 or tara.brown@hcwa.com.

Cubihatcha Golf Tournament

Friday May 20, 2016 at Eagle's Brooke Golf Course.

8:30 a.m. Registration, 9:30 a.m. Tee Off.

Four-person scramble format, \$300 per team. Hole sponsors for \$100.

Proceeds benefit the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

Contact maranda.stonica@hcwa.com or call 678-583-3932.



Second Front

Henry County Water wraps up 2015 with a record six industry awards

Following annual audits of the water and sewer systems of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA), industry judges have noted the utility is as good as gold.

During its yearend Fall Conference & Expo in Athens, the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) awarded HCWA with the (Sewer) Collection System and (Water) Distribution System Gold Awards, which are the highest honors a utility can receive for overall system performance.

GAWP Gold Awards are achieved only through a quantitative score of 95 or higher on annual water/sewer system audits. The HCWA scored a 102.8 on the industry review of its water



The Authority's Jim Brinkman (left) and Lesa Walker show off the 2015 GAWP (Sewer) Collection System and (Water) Distribution System Gold Awards, respectively.

distribution system and 99.43 on the peer review of its collection system.

In addition to winning the GAWP Collection System and Distribution System Gold Awards, the HCWA Water Production Department also received the Water Quality Laboratory Award for Quality Assurance and Quality Control, as well as the award for Best Consumer Confidence Report.

Rounding out the six industry honors received by the HCWA during the yearend GAWP Fall Conference was the Golden Wrench Award for Andrew Swilley for being the Top Maintenance Technician in the state, and induction into the Golden Manhole Society for the Authority's Kenny Love.

Public Education

Congratulations Ahmad Hicks! Middle School Essay Contest Winner

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) congratulates Ahmad Hicks, a sixth grade student at Woodland Middle School, as the county winner of the 2015 Middle School Essay Contest sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD).

Ahmad and the other 14 county winners within the District were recognized at the State Capitol on Dec. 16. The topic for this year's Essay Contest was: "Why is storm water pollution a problem and what can you do to prevent it?"

The Middle School Essay Contest challenges students to think critically about the region's water resources, while raising awareness for conservation and preservation of water quality in metro Atlanta.

The 2015 Essay Contest marked the 14th year the District has sponsored this competition among middle school students. More than 1,900 students participated in the event.

Since its creation in 2001, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District has implemented one of the most comprehensive regional water management plans in the country. By working with local governments, water and wastewater utilities such as the HCWA, and stakeholders, the Metro Water District protects water quality, water supply and the recreational value of water resources within the region.



Essay Contest winner Ahmad Hicks (center) is pictured with Katie Kirkpatrick (left), Vice Chairman of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, and Rep. Lynn Smith of Coweta County, who is Chairman of the Natural Resources and Environment Committee of the Georgia House of Representatives.

Congratulations Jasmin Palacios! Georgia Model Water Tower Competition Winner

Congratulations to Jasmin Palacios, a student at Woodland Middle School, who won the south metro regional 2015 Georgia Model Water Tower Competition. As a result, she received a check for \$300 from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals, presented by event organizer Tara Brown, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator.



Fishing Season Begins March 2nd

The 2016 fishing season at select HCWA reservoirs opens March 2, for Henry County residents, property owners, and Authority customers. The scheduled times for public access to the select reservoirs are Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., through the last weekend in November.

Anglers must have a Reservoirs Use Permit, which is available for \$45 at the HCWA headquarters and good for a full calendar year from the date of purchase. This HCWA permit provides access for fishing, boating (with non-gas motors), canoeing and kayaking, for the permit holder and one guest (who may be admitted free).

For more information, contact the HCWA Reservoirs Office at the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center at 678-583-3930.



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