



# HCWSA Currents



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

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## HCWSA bond refinancing to save more than \$4 million

### Authority takes advantage of lower interest rates to refinance bond issues from 10 years prior

As the 2012 calendar turned over into the New Year, Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) officials reflected on a significant two-part bond refunding program that has resulted in more than \$4 million dollars in savings for the Authority and its ratepayers. This most recent refinancing closes the books on a bond issue from 10 years prior.

The favorable, almost all-time low municipal bond interest rates of today are ideal for governments and authorities looking to refinance their long-term debt, say Authority officials. The recent success of the two-part 2012 bond issues reflects the Authority's commitment to continually look for ways to save money and finance necessary capital projects and system improvements as cost effectively as possible.

This latest effort to refund callable bonds at favorable interest rates began in the fall of 2011, with the passing of a joint resolution between the HCWSA and Henry County Government, which authorized the refunding

of the 2002A Bonds via two separate series that were completed last year.

Part I of the refunding program (the Series 2012 Bonds) closed on Feb. 15, 2012, resulting in a net present value savings of more than \$2.48 million, or 13.34% of the refunded principal amount. The second issue of refunding bonds (Series 2012A) closed this past November, providing a net present value savings of more than \$1.58 million, or 8.80% of the refunded principal. Together, the Series 2012 and 2012A Bonds provided a net present value savings of more than \$4.06 million through the two-part refunding program.

## HCWSA selects officers, welcomes new members

During its January Meeting, the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) elected officers to lead the utility during 2013, in addition to welcoming three new board members and recognizing their predecessors for the public service they provided the Authority.

Jimmy Carter was selected by his fellow board members to serve again this year as Chairman, while Rick Jeffares likewise was asked to continue his role as Vice Chairman. Newly appointed District 5 Authority Member Carlotta Harrell completes the slate of officers for 2013 as



The newest members of the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority Board of Directors include (left to right): Harold Jenkins, representing District 4, Carlotta Harrell, representing District 5, and Mike Barr, representing District 1.

Secretary. Also joining Harrell as first-time members on the

Authority Board are Harold Jenkins, representing District 4, and

Mike Barr, representing District 1. Kimberly Turner Osborne was asked to continue her service as Clerk of the HCWSA as well.

Three outgoing HCWSA Board Members received commendations during the January Authority Meeting, including Al Smith, who had served on the HCWSA Board since January of 2004. At that time, Smith had followed long-time Chairman Howell Gardner to represent District 1. Jim Lenahan also has completed his tenure on the Authority Board. He represented District 4 for six years, including two years as Vice Chairman. Finally,

Robert Abercrombie was recognized for his service to citizens from District 5, since he took office in 2011.

The five-member HCWSA Board of Directors will meet the first Monday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Authority Headquarters at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough, except during the months of July and September, when meetings are scheduled around the Independence Day and Labor Day holidays, respectively.

For more news and complete profiles of the HCWSA Board Members, log onto our Web site at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com).

## Two largest reservoirs open for 2013 fishing season

According to officials at the HCWSA, many among the more than 2,000 Henry County Water reservoir use permit holders have been asking about access to the Upper Towaliga (Ed Cole) Reservoir for public fishing. This year their requests have been granted as both the Upper Towaliga and Tussahaw Reservoirs will be open during the 2013 HCWSA regular fishing season.

This year's regular fishing season at Henry County Water begins March 1, and extends through the end of November. The Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga, at 1,466 and 1,100

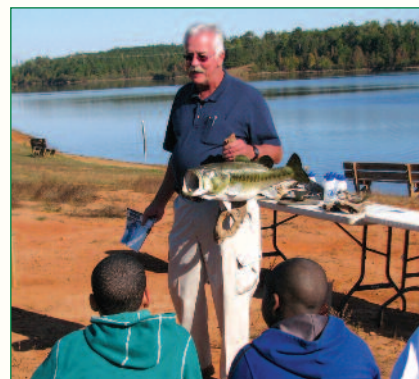
acres respectively, are the largest of the five reservoirs within the HCWSA water storage system. The two facilities will be open on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. (Daylight Saving Time begins on March 10 and continues through Nov. 3, 2013.) The only change in the public fishing schedule this year is that the reservoirs will be closed on the Sunday Holidays of Easter and Mother's Day.

In order to fish HCWSA reservoirs, anglers must have an active reservoir use permit, which is valid for one calendar

year from the date of purchase. A permit holder may take one guest with them free of charge. Permits are available for \$45 (with discounts for seniors) at the HCWSA headquarters.

Guests must sign a release form and adhere to all rules and regulations governing recreation at the reservoirs, including the use of only electric/trolling motors.

For more information on fishing at HCWSA reservoirs, log onto the Authority's Web site at [www.hcwsa.com](http://www.hcwsa.com), or contact the HCWSA Reservoirs Office and Cubihatcha Outdoor Center at 678-583-3930.



HCWSA Naturalist Doug Martin teaches a session on fishing at Henry County reservoirs during a recent field trip by local elementary school students to the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center. The 2013 fishing season at the HCWSA will include public access to both the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs this year.



# Second Front

## Henry County Fire Department protects citizens through hydrant inspections

Firefighters from the Henry County Fire Department (HCFD), in cooperation with the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA), are inspecting fire hydrants for a two- to three-month period, beginning March 1, 2013. The Fire Department conducts its bi-annual inspections of hydrants across the county every March and September.

Hydrant inspections – and any necessary maintenance – are critical to fire suppression and the protection of life and property, say Fire Department officials. In the event of a hydrant lacking service or adequate water pressure, fire suppression could be impacted. It's the goal of

the bi-annual inspections to prevent such potential crises, says Captain Sabrina Puckett of the HCFD. Inspections will be ongoing Monday – Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., during the inspection months.

Should HCWSA customers experience a change in water clarity during the time of a hydrant inspection, they are encouraged to run their water for a short period of time until the turbidity (cloudiness) of the water has cleared. Customers should also refrain from washing clothes during this time. Should water clarity or pressure not return to normal, HCWSA customers can call 770-288-6600 for assistance.



Henry County Firefighter/EMT Paul Lyons conducts a fire hydrant inspection, which will be taking place all across the county for two to three months, beginning March 1.

## HCWSA setting the standard for leak detection

When officials at the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) encourage customers to fix their household leaks, especially during Fix-a-Leak Week in the month of March, they can say they are a utility that practices what they preach.

In fact, the Authority's efforts to find and fix leaks extend throughout its 1,400 miles of water mains within a distribution system that serves approximately 54,000 metered customers. The HCWSA Leak Detection Program is setting the standard for efficiency and cost effectiveness within the water industry, thanks to the use of modern day leak detection equipment.

The evidence of HCWSA leak detection success is reflected in the 380 million gallons of non-revenue water that the Authority has eliminated – thus recovered – during the past five years.

That has resulted in a savings of \$933,000, thanks to HCWSA maintenance efforts to fix those leaks responsible for water loss. Since the Authority's Leak Detection Program was initiated in May of 2007, the HCWSA leak detection team has grown to three full-time and three part-time employees who have the skills to utilize the latest "lift and shift" method using "noise logging" devices to locate costly leaks within the system.

The success of the Leak Detection Program at Henry County Water has caught the attention of other water utilities and government public works departments, too, who seek similar results and savings for their respective customers and tax payers. Most recently, the Authority has demonstrated its Leak Detection Program to guests from the Cities of Griffin, Dalton, Hampton, Thomaston and Brunswick, as well as Gwinnett, Newton, and Cobb Counties.



The HCWSA Leak Detection Program, through the work of its team members, has saved the Authority and its ratepayers approximately \$933,000. (Above) The Authority's Gary May and Lee Mooney, employees on the leak detection team, check for leaks within the HCWSA system.

## Finding and fixing leaks keeps dollars from dripping away

This year marks the fifth annual promotion of Fix-a-Leak Week (recognized nationally during the week of March 18-24, 2013) by the EPA WaterSense partnership program.

To kick off Fix-a-Leak Week locally, the HCWSA is participating in the first annual Water Drop Dash on Saturday, March 16. This Peachtree Road Race qualifier – starting at the Chattahoochee Nature Center in Roswell – is being sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

Additional Fix-a-Leak Week events will be held at The Home Depot (9 a.m. to noon) and Lowe's in McDonough (2 p.m. - 6 p.m.) on Saturday, March 23.

HCWSA customers should consider these potential sources of leaks, as well as simple solutions on how to fix them.

- Check your water meter during a two-hour period when no water is being used (or after turning the water off at the main valve). If the meter has changed at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by

placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the toilet bowl after 15 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush the toilet so not to stain the tank.) Replace old or worn out toilet flappers and other inexpensive parts as needed.

- Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks. Replace gaskets and fittings as needed.

- Leaky showerheads can be fixed easily by making sure there is a tight connection

between the showerhead and the pipe stem, using pipe tape as needed.

- Check your sprinkler systems and outdoor hoses and faucets to make sure nothing was damaged from a winter freeze. Use pipe tape for leaks from connections between the hose and the spigot.

For more information on finding and fixing leaks, check out our Web site at [www.hcwsa.com/detecting-a-leak](http://www.hcwsa.com/detecting-a-leak); and, for additional information on WaterSense programs, log onto [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).



HCWSA employees participate in last year's Fix-a-Leak Week event at Lowe's in McDonough. No matter the time of year, HCWSA customers are encouraged to find and fix household leaks.

## ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter  
Rick Jeffares  
Carlotta Harrell  
Harold Jenkins  
Mike Barr

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Member  
Member

Lindy D. Farmer, Jr.  
General Manager  
  
Kimberly Turner  
Osborne  
Clerk

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