



HCWA Currents



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

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It's official: state law renames Henry County Water Authority

With the passage of House Bill 522 by the Georgia General Assembly and the subsequent signing by Gov. Nathan Deal at a ceremony in Henry County on April 29, the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority (HCWSA) has been renamed the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA), with its "authority" more openly defined for the benefit of citizens.

State Rep. Dale Rutledge spearheaded the efforts to sponsor House Bill 522 and introduce it for consideration by the Georgia General Assembly during this past legislative session. While the utility's brand name may have been shortened, the Authority's responsibilities haven't. With House Bill 522 signed into law, Henry County Water now has more clarity and conciseness to its newly amended enabling legislation, say Authority officials.

Authority Attorney Andy Welch, himself a State



Gov. Nathan Deal (seated) signs House Bill 522 into law, changing the name of the Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority to the Henry County Water Authority, while more clearly defining its role and responsibilities for the future.

Representative offering support of House Bill 522, provided the HCWA Board of Directors an overview of the new law during the Authority's May Board Meeting and Annual Strategic

Planning Session.

Welch noted that in addition to renaming the Authority, state law now offers the Authority flexibility to enter into defined contracts when necessary for

establishing and/or enhancing water and sewer services for its current and future customer base. In addition, the legislation affords the Authority autonomy to carry out ordinances enacted to protect natural resources and local water supply.

Overall, the new law more clearly revises the previous Authority Act, says Welch. HCWA General Manager Lindy Farmer concurs.

"The new law is more precise, whereas on occasion in the past it was ambiguous as to what we could do in some instances when needing to meet the water and sewer needs of Henry County citizens and protect the water resources of our community," says Farmer. "Since so many issues impact water quality, the new law hopefully will provide guidance for the future of Henry County Water, now that our role and responsibilities as an Authority are more clearly and purposefully stated."

Walnut Creek Water Reclamation facility named Plant of the Year

With apologies to NBA legendary coach Pat Riley, who trademarked the term, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) celebrated its own "three-peat" when the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) selected the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility as this year's Plant of the Year in Georgia.

Walnut Creek won the honor

for the state's best wastewater plant in the category for non-discharging land application systems with a capacity of up to 10 million gallons per day (MGD). Operators from the plant accepted the award on behalf of the Authority at the GAWP Spring Conference and Expo in Macon.

The performance of the Walnut Creek Plant barely edged out the second place finish of Henry

County's Indian Creek Water Reclamation Facility, which was the 2011 GAWP Wastewater Plant of the Year. In addition, the HCWA Bear Creek Water Reclamation Facility won last year's Plant of the Year Award, resulting in three consecutive years that Henry County Water has operated the best wastewater treatment facility in Georgia – among three different wastewater plants.

In addition to winning the GAWP Plant of the Year Award, the Walnut Creek facility – along with the Indian Creek and Bear Creek Plants – won the GAWP Gold Award for 100 percent permit compliance during the entire year. The Authority's Tussahaw and Towaliga Water Treatment Facilities won GAWP Platinum Awards, since each has achieved six straight years of 100 percent permit compliance. Finally, the Authority's Towaliga Plant was a runner-up for the GAWP Water Plant of the Year Award as well.

During the GAWP Spring Conference in Macon, water professionals also selected the



Phil Johnson won the Top Operator Award for the state's District 3, presented by the Georgia Association of Water Professionals.

Authority's Phil Johnson as a Top Operator in District 3. In receiving this district honor, Johnson qualifies for the statewide Award for Top Operator in Georgia, to be selected by GAWP officials later this year. In addition, the Authority's Howie Doerr led a seminar for fellow water professionals on the issues a water and sewer system faces when planning for growth.



Operators of the HCWA Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility accept the 2013 Award for Wastewater Plant of the Year during the Spring Conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals. The Walnut Creek Plant staff includes (left to right): Stan Stanley, Patrick Chesley, Jason Jeffares, who is HCWA Manager of Water Pollution Control, Buster Cook, Joel Camp, Phil Johnson, who was selected as the Top Operator in Georgia's District 3, and David Farmer.

Please think before you pour grease down the sink!

You can help prevent sewer line clogs, spills and overflows by properly disposing of household grease.

For more information, check out our Web site at www.hcwsa.org.

Second Front

Annual Water Quality Report coming to you electronically this year

As a result of changes to the Consumer Confidence Report rules and regulations by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), local water utilities now are allowed to distribute their annual Water Quality Reports to customers electronically by July 1, rather than via direct mail.

As a result, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) will forego the direct mailing of this year's Water Quality Report, instead providing a direct link for water customers to access the Report on the Authority's Web site at waterqualityreport.hcwsa.com. The Report can be read easily online, or downloaded via a printer-friendly PDF format.

However, the HCWA will produce a limited number of printed copies of the 2013 Henry County Water Quality Report for customers to pick up at the Authority Headquarters or the

Tussahaw Water Treatment Facility, as needed. But by eliminating the direct mailing of the annual Water Quality Report to more than 50,000 HCWA water customers, the Authority will save significant dollars in printing costs and postage as a result of this EPA regulatory change.

The Consumer Confidence Reports – or Water Quality Reports as the HCWA has referred to them – are produced annually by water systems to inform customers of “what is in their drinking water and why.” The Reports became a regulatory requirement of public utilities following the 1996 Amendments by Congress to the Safe Drinking Water Act, in an effort to increase

the public's “right-to-know” about the nature of their drinking water.

For more information on the 2013 Henry County Water Quality Report, contact the Authority at 770-957-1380.



HCWA employee crowned 2013 Georgia Meter Madness Champion

As employees within the Operations Department of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA), Dwayne Lenning and Nic Spann often are competing to see who can do their job better and faster than the other, for the benefit of the residential water customers they serve. That friendly competition found them squaring off in the finals of the 2013 Georgia Meter Madness Competition, held during the Spring Conference and Expo of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) in Macon.

During the championship match, the two men completed three attempts to assemble a water meter from a bucket of meter parts, with those times averaged for an overall score. Dwayne's average time of 35.03 seconds was among the best ever recorded during the state's annual competition, according to event organizers, and was good enough to defeat his fellow HCWA colleague for the title of 2013 Georgia Meter Madness Champion.

As a result of being the state's best at assembling a standard 1-inch residential water meter, Dwayne now goes on to compete in the national Meter Madness Competition at “ACE-13” – the Annual Conference and Expo of the American Water Works Association – to be held this summer in Denver, Colorado.



Nic Spann (right) and Dwayne Lenning (left), technicians from Henry County Water, compete in the finals of the 2013 Georgia Meter Madness Competition. Lenning narrowly defeated his fellow employee to take the title of 2013 Georgia Meter Madness Champion.

Fix a Leak Week, Drinking Water Week educate the public on water issues

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) actively participates in several water industry events throughout the year, with the intent always to educate stakeholders – including customers, employees, and others – about key issues impacting water and sewer services. Two recent events highlighted the importance of wise water use.

Fix a Leak Week was recognized nationally during the week of March 18-24. Henry County Water celebrated Fix a Leak Week with its customers by hosting in-store demonstrations of leak detection, water conservation, water efficient appliances and more, at The Home Depot and Lowe's in McDonough on Saturday, March 23.

“What to know about H2O” was the theme of the 2013 Drinking Water Week, recognized nationally May 5-11, by the American Water Works Association. To celebrate, employees from Henry County



Henry County Water Authority employee Lee Mooney (left) demonstrates leak detection technology to customers at The Home Depot during the Fix a Leak Week public education event on March 23.

Water participated in the first “Water Bowl” to test their water knowledge.

This summer, public education at Henry County Water moves outdoors. The annual Kayak and Fishing Day is once again being held at the HCWA Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center to celebrate the achievements and abilities of Henry County Special Olympians and special needs citizens.

The Cubihatcha Center also is the site for the Helping Harvest Community Garden – one of the six community

gardens established by Community Gardens of Henry County, Inc. In addition, the Cubihatcha Center serves as a focal point for programming of the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

The public is invited to enjoy the Cubihatcha Center or tour HCWA facilities during operating hours. Individuals or group outings are welcome. For more information, contact the Cubihatcha staff at 678-583-3930, or log onto our Web site at www.hcwsa.com.

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Henry County Water & Sewerage Authority
1695 Highway 20 West ■ McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-6659 ■ www.hcwsa.com