



HCWA Currents



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

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The Fish are Biting at HCWA Reservoirs

2018 HCWA Fishing Season open now thru November 30

As winter fishing at HCWA reservoirs came to a close in February, the Authority's Reservoirs Office made preparations for the regular public fishing season, when local anglers get the opportunity to enjoy access to the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs during an expanded schedule for the rest of the year.

The 2018 HCWA Fishing Season opened March 2 and runs through the last weekend of November. The public now has an opportunity to fish the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (The Authority staff reserves the right to close the reservoirs for fishing on a scheduled day, in the event of maintenance, severe weather, or for



The HCWA Tussahaw (pictured) and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs will be accessible for public fishing during the Authority's 2018 Regular Fishing Season, which runs from March 2 thru the end of November.

other reasons.)

To access HCWA reservoirs, citizens must sign a waiver and obtain a Reservoir Use Permit, which is available at the HCWA headquarters during office

hours for any HCWA customer, Henry County resident or property owner. These Permits are valid for one calendar year from the date of purchase, and they allow for a guest to accompany you for free.

The HCWA Reservoir Use Permits provide access to the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga not only for fishing (for those with Georgia fishing licenses), but for canoeing, kayaking, and boating with non-gas-powered (trolling) motors.

Local anglers continue to enjoy the convenience and value of fishing on HCWA reservoirs, evidenced by the nearly 1,300 citizens who purchased the Authority's Reservoir Use Permits during 2017.

For more information on rules, regulations, and how to access the Tussahaw and Upper Towaliga Reservoirs, log onto our new website at www.hcwa.com, or contact the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center at 678-583-3930.

Fix a Leak Week Raises Awareness of Saving Water and Money

Each year during the month of March, the water industry celebrates national Fix a Leak Week as the ideal time for consumers to find and fix household leaks, both indoors and outside. Consider this occasion as being similar to checking your fire alarms and changing out batteries after the New Year.

This year, Fix a Leak Week was recognized nationally the week of March 19-25, 2018. However, you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long.

To celebrate its 10th Annual Fix a Leak Week, the HCWA set up shop

in the lobby of its headquarters near Customer Service, so employees could interact with customers and promote the importance of finding and fixing household leaks. Water professionals from HCWA provided water conservation kits and shared leak detection demonstrations, tips and insights on how to read your water bill to diagnose a leak.

National Fix a Leak Week is a promotional event established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense Program, which provides labels for water-efficient products and resources for helping you save water. The HCWA is a WaterSense promotional partner.

For more information on finding and fixing household leaks, check out our website at www.hcwa.com or the EPA WaterSense Program at www.epa.gov/watersense.



HCWA employees shared tips with customers on how to find and fix household leaks during national Fix a Leak Week, which was March 19-25, 2018.



Fix a Leak Week

Drinking Water Week is an Event to Celebrate

In the water industry, the spring features events that celebrate the importance of drinking water and other natural resources. Perhaps no event is more widely recognized among water utilities and their customers than national Drinking Water Week.

National Drinking Water Week will be recognized this May 6-12, 2018, with a theme titled: "Protect

the Source."

The HCWA works daily to protect its source water, which includes five drinking water reservoirs that total 18 billion gallons of storage. The quality of that source water impacts the quality of water production in the Authority's two water treatment plants, which provide clean, safe drinking water to approximately 60,000 customer accounts.

Authority Offers Convenient Payment Methods

HCWA customers have several convenient and efficient methods for making payments for their water and/or sewer services, from the traditional means to the use of new technology and innovation.

Traditional payment methods include mailing in a check or money order with the payment portion of your bill, or by dropping off your payment at the HCWA headquarters, either during office hours at the customer service counter, or via our drive thru window or drive-up kiosk. (Please do not leave cash payments in the night depository.)

However, if you'd like to take advantage of the additional conveniences of technology, you can pay by phone, online, or through direct draft from your bank account.

You can pay by phone using a credit (MasterCard or Visa) or debit card by calling 404-341-9689 or toll-free at 1-855-985-1136. Be sure to provide your account number to assure proper posting of your payment.

Payments made by MasterCard or VISA will incur a convenience fee.

HCWA customers also can make a debit/credit card or e-check payment online, by accessing the link on our website. Again, make sure you provide your account number to ensure accurate posting.

In addition, some financial institutions offer an online bill pay option, so check with them to enroll. However, the HCWA offers a direct draft payment option that automatically debits payment from your bank account each month.

For more information on how to take advantage of these convenient bill payment options, check out our website Customer Care pages at www.hcwa.com, or call our customer service department at 770-957-6659, and we'll be glad to help.



Water Conservation Tips

- Only water plants when necessary. More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering.
- Water the root zone of the plant instead of the foliage. This saves water and reduces diseases.
- Reduce the amount of lawn in your yard by planting shrubs and ground covers well-adapted to our region.
- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.

Find more conservation tips at mydropcounts.org

Second Front

HCWA Board Re-elects Officers for 2018

During its January Meeting, the HCWA Board of Directors re-elected its slate of officers to serve in 2018. Jimmy Carter (District 3), who is entering his 14th year with the Authority, will continue to serve as Chairman, joined by Harold Jenkins (District 4) as Vice Chairman and Carlotta Harrell (District 5) as Secretary/Treasurer.

While Jenkins and Harrell have held seats on the HCWA Board since 2013, the remaining two Authority Members are entering just their second year of service. Warren Holder (District 1) and Roslyn Williams (District 2) joined the Authority last year, when their respective seats were



The 2018 HCWA Board of Directors includes (left to right): Harold Jenkins, Vice Chairman from District 4; Carlotta Harrell, Secretary/Treasurer from District 5; Jimmy Carter, Chairman from District 3; Roslyn Williams, Member from District 2; and Warren Holder, Member from District 1.

open for appointment by newly elected County Commissioners.

The HCWA Board of Directors are appointed by the Henry County Board of Commissioners to serve two-year terms. The Authority typically meets on the first Thursday of the month, unless those days conflict with holidays or other events. Meetings are at 8:00 a.m. at the Authority Headquarters, and they are open to the public.

The 2018 HCWA Board Meeting Schedule and Meeting Minutes, as well as Board Member Profiles, are available on our website at www.hcwa.com.

HCWA Shares Rain to Drain Workshops With National Educators

Last summer, the HCWA hosted approximately 20 science teachers from Henry County Schools for four days of "Rain to Drain" workshops, introducing them to water professionals and facilities that might be of interest to their students.

The success of this public education program resulted in an invite for the Authority to present 'how to' insights on "Rain to Drain" workshops to members of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA).

During the NSTA National Conference, held at the Georgia World Congress Center March 15-18, the HCWA's "Rain to Drain" presentation was among the more than 1,200 educational sessions on important topics for science teachers.



The success of the HCWA "Rain to Drain" workshops last summer for teachers from Henry County Schools (pictured) has gained the attention of the National Science Teachers Association, who invited the Authority to present a 'how to' technical session during its National Conference in Atlanta in March.

HCWA Partners With Chamber to Cultivate Youth Leadership

Youth Leadership Henry is one of the most critically important programs of the Henry County Chamber of Commerce. As such, the Authority hopes to include its system, facilities and operations, among the highlights of the program's orientation for local students – our community's future leaders.

The 2017-18 class of Youth Leadership Henry toured the HCWA Towaliga Water Treatment Plant on March 10, to learn about water resources in their community and what they can do to protect them. Afterward, the students participated in a service project to cleanup areas near the HCWA Gardner Reservoir.

The purpose of Youth Leadership Henry is to identify emerging leaders among local high school students, bring them together in an atmosphere conducive to the free exchange of ideas, and to provide them with an enlightening educational

experience. Participants are taught leadership skills while learning about various government, economic, and social sectors of the community.



The 2017-18 class of Youth Leadership Henry (pictured) toured the HCWA Towaliga Plant to learn about local water resources and what they can do to protect them.

Middle Schoolers Reflect on the Importance of Safe, Sustainable Drinking Water

To raise awareness of the importance of clean, safe drinking water, coupled with water storage and production capacity, the HCWA partnered with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District to promote the annual Middle School Essay Contest among students within the District's school systems.

This year's Metro Water District Essay Contest asked students to write 300-500 words on the topic of "Why water quantity (how much water we have) and water quality (how clean that water is) are equally important."

Aparna Ganesan, a sixth-grade student at Eagle's Landing Middle School, won the 2017 Metro Water District's Essay Contest for Henry County. Ganesan was among the winners from 14 jurisdictions recognized at the Georgia State Capitol at the end of last year for their outstanding essays. She and the

other local winners each won a \$100 prize, while an overall District winner received an additional \$400.

"The Henry County Water Authority's Cubihatcha Kids Field Trips provide an excellent avenue for this utility to educate local third graders on water resource issues," says Sarah S. Skinner, Education and Public Awareness Specialist with the Natural Resources Group of the Atlanta Regional Commission, which oversees the Water Planning District. "Thus, the foundation is in place for their middle schoolers to be able to produce quality essays annually for our contest."

This past year marked the 16th straight Middle School Essay Contest sponsored by the Water Planning District. The annual contest challenges students to think critically about the region's water resources, while raising awareness of the importance of water conservation.



State Rep. Lynn Smith (left), who is Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, and Charlotte Nash (right), Chair of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Governing Board, recognize Eagle's Landing Middle School Student Aparna Ganesan as the District's 2017 Essay Contest Winner for Henry County.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Jimmy Carter	Chairman
Harold Jenkins	Vice Chairman
Carlotta Harrell	Secretary/Treasurer
Warren Holder	Member
Roslyn Williams	Member

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

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