



HCWA Currents



HCWA Celebrates the 15th Year of Cubihatcha Kids Field Trips



The Georgia Farm Bureau offered Henry County 3rd graders a closer look at Farming during the fall "Cubihatcha Kids" field trips.

This year marked the 15th Anniversary of the award-winning "Cubihatcha Kids" outdoor education program. During a two-week period in September, the Authority hosted field trips for approximately 3,100 third grade students and 120 teachers from Henry County Schools at its Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

The Cubihatcha field trips are organized by the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership, which includes the HCWA, the Henry County Board of Education, the Henry County Board of Commissioners, and other public and private organizations and volunteers, who either serve as faculty or provide resources to host this signature event.

Field trips to the Cubihatcha Center provide opportunities for experiential or "hands-on" learning for students through outdoor classroom activities that correlate with the third grade Georgia Standards for excellence and applied STEM curricula.

During the 15 years of the program, an estimated 45,000 "Cubihatcha Kids" from Henry County Schools have participated in these annual field trips.

The Cubihatcha Center, located at 100 Collins Drive in Locust Grove, is open Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact us at 678-583-3930. And check out the 2018 Cubihatcha Kids photo gallery at www.hcwa.com.



HCWA Customer Service Rep Mark Sanders teaches Henry 3rd graders about the "Amazing Georgia Pine."

HCWA Deputy Manager Participates in "Real Men Wear Pink" Campaign

When HCWA Deputy Manager Tony Carnell heard the statistics, he couldn't believe it. He was sitting in a "Lunch and Learn" seminar provided by Piedmont Henry Hospital for HCWA employees when he found out that one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point during their life.

As the father of three girls, the gravity of that news hit home. That's why Tony accepted the invitation from Piedmont Henry to serve as one of the 10 local professionals for the "Real Men Wear Pink" public education campaign.

"I was honored to be selected as one of the men to take part in this initiative," says Carnell. "The 'Real Men Wear Pink' campaign has been so good at raising awareness of breast cancer and the importance of early detection."

At the HCWA, Carnell and the leadership of the Authority, spearheaded by Employee Development Coordinator Claudia Cooper, organized a number of activities for employees during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.



HCWA employees celebrating the "Pretty in Pink, Lunch and Learn" seminar with "Flat Tony" Carnell include (Front, L to R): Diane Thomas, Stacey Snow, and Whitney Matthews, as well as (Back, L to R): Valerie Bloemer, Camilla Raysor, Denise Ballard, Jeff Benton, Cassie Inman, Karen Lake-Thompson, Vicky Hyatt, Cynthia Parr, and Lisa Davis.

For starters, customers and guests were greeted by a life-size poster of Carnell when they entered the HCWA Headquarters in McDonough. The artwork, which employees dubbed "Flat Tony," took on a life of its own. Many people snapped selfies with "Flat Tony" to post on social media platforms in support of breast cancer awareness.

Authority employees also participated in a "Pretty in Pink, Lunch and Learn" seminar, raised money through a weekly raffle, wore pink to work every Thursday in October, utilized a Mobile Mammography unit on campus, and decorated the Customer Service Department to alert customers of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

For the complete feature on Tony Carnell and the "Real Men Wear Pink" Campaign, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

Volunteers help keep Henry County Rivers Alive!

Approximately 30 volunteers accepted the challenge to clean up about a mile of stream bank and surrounding areas of Camp Creek during this year's Henry County Rivers Alive, held Saturday morning Nov. 3.

Participants in the 2018 Henry County Rivers Alive cleanup included students from Strong Rock Christian School, Dutchtown Middle School's Brothers of Virtue Group, as well as the Henry County Juvenile Justice Department. Employees of the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) and Henry County



Approximately 30 volunteers worked to remove about a half-ton of trash and debris from an area of Camp Creek during Henry County Rivers Alive.

Stormwater Management also joined the ranks as hosts of the event, which is affiliated with the statewide Rivers Alive Outreach Program of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD).

HCWA Officials noted that volunteers filled 50 to 60 trash bags, or approximately a half-ton of trash when considering the additional items removed from the site, such as shopping carts, baby cribs, tires, a mattress and a bicycle.

For the complete story and photos from the 2018 Henry County Rivers Alive, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

Fix A Leak Week to Feature HCWA Customer Appreciation

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Fix a Leak Week, which will be recognized nationwide from March 18 - March 24, 2019.

The timing of the event is ideal, since it falls during the beginning of spring when HCWA customers are encouraged to find and fix household leaks, especially with irrigation systems returning to use for outdoor watering.

To recognize Fix a Leak Week at the HCWA, employees will

be setting up displays and demonstrations in the lobby of the Authority's Headquarters at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough.

In addition, the HCWA Customer Service Department will be hosting a Customer Appreciation during Fix a Leak Week, when customers can stop by to receive HCWA gift items and refreshments, as a small token of appreciation for doing business with the Authority.

Check our website at www.hcwa.com in the weeks leading up to Fix a Leak Week for more details.



Fix a Leak Week
March 18-24, 2019

Second Front

HCWA Employee Rallies Support for Hurricane Victims

When people are in need of help, especially fellow veterans, Alton Head doesn't hesitate to respond.

Alton is a Customer Service Field Technician for the HCWA, who often leads Authority employees in efforts to support community and charitable causes. As a veteran of the U.S. Army and Commander of the American Legion Post 516 in McDonough, his latest efforts helped to provide assistance for veterans and victims of Hurricane Florence in North Carolina.



Alton Head (right) and HCPD Chief Mark Amerman oversee the departure of the hurricane relief items from the HCWA Headquarters to victims of Hurricane Florence in Fayetteville, NC.

After receiving a call from the Commander of the American Legion Post 32 — one of four Posts located in Fayetteville, NC, which is home to the U.S. Army's Fort Bragg — Alton led the American Legion and Water Authority response to this request for help.

Donations for Hurricane Florence relief came in from the cities of McDonough, Barnesville, and Locust Grove, as well as the Henry County Police Department (HCPD), led by Chief Mark Amerman, a veteran himself, and Sheriff's Office, in addition to the HCWA.

New Image Towing and Recovery in Forest Park volunteered to haul a

tractor trailer full of bottled water and household items from the HCWA Headquarters to hurricane victims in Fayetteville, departing on Tuesday Oct. 16, with an escort provided by the HCPD.

For anyone interested in assisting with local hurricane relief efforts, or other projects to assist veterans in the community, contact Alton Head at altonhead@att.net. For the complete feature on HCWA hurricane relief efforts, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

Are You Prepared for a Natural Disaster?

HCWA customers are encouraged to make preparations in the event of a natural disaster. Family Emergency Plans and Basic Ready Kits are ways you can make sure you stay safe and ready in the event of a major weather event. For more information on how to make your plan and assemble your Basic Ready Kit, go online to the Ready Georgia website at www.ready.ga.gov.



Volunteers gather to celebrate the departure of a tractor trailer full of essentials from the HCWA to victims of Hurricane Florence in Fayetteville, NC.

Charitable Assistance Program Helps Customers in Need

In the spirit of giving during Christmas and the Holiday Season, many HCWA customers choose to participate in the utility's "Round Up" or Charitable Assistance Program (CAP). In fact, 1,711 are doing so currently.



Money that customers "round up" to donate to the CAP Fund goes toward helping fellow customers who are in financial distress and who qualify for assistance to help pay their utility bills. During FY 2018, HCWA customers generated \$11,235 through the "round-up" program.

Those funds are forwarded to Samaritans Together of Henry County, Inc. to administer on behalf of the HCWA, and 100% of the donations go directly to financial assistance. During 2018, CAP dollars provided assistance for 50 families.

For more information on the CAP and how you can get involved in public outreach, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

Hunting Season a Win-Win for HCWA and the Community

For the fourth year now, the HCWA put together a successful hunting season. The 2018 Hunting Season at the HCWA Walnut Creek Land Application Site (LAS), where treated wastewater is sprayed over approximately 1,500 acres of protected green space, featured Youth Hunts on Oct. 10 and Oct. 27, as well as a Veterans Hunt during the Veterans Day Holiday Weekend. A Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt on Jan. 18-19, will round out this year's season.

Thanks to the generosity of event sponsors, which included Southside Sportsman, Academy Sports & Outdoors, Hillsman Deer Cooler, and Alan Benton, the HCWA staff were able to host first-class hunts for customers this year.

For photos and the complete story on the HCWA Hunting Season, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.



Those HCWA customers selected via blind draw enjoy the second Youth Deer Hunt of the 2018 HCWA Hunting Season on Saturday Oct. 27.

It's Time to Winterize Those Water Lines

The fall is a good time to winterize your home, to prevent potential water leaks or pipe bursts caused by frozen water lines during the winter.

The HCWA offers the following winterization tips to help:

- ❖ Insulate water lines (with wraps or tape) that run outdoors or in unheated areas.
- ❖ Consider insulating water heaters as well.
- ❖ Drain irrigation systems completely.
- ❖ Drain and disconnect garden hoses from outdoor faucets.
- ❖ Place covers or insulation over outdoor water spigots.
- ❖ Drain water lines that feed outdoor faucets.
- ❖ Remove window air conditioning units and insulate those areas.
- ❖ Clean gutters, so winter rains and melting snow can drain.
- ❖ When leaving your home for an extended period, set your thermostat to 55 degrees rather than turning the heat off.



❖ Should a pipe burst due to freezing or under any other circumstances, always know how to shut off the main water line servicing your home.

For more information on winterizing your home, contact the HCWA at 770-957-6659, or log onto our website at www.hcwa.com.

Winter Fishing Available at Tussahaw

With the 2018 Regular Fishing Season at HCWA Reservoirs coming to a close on Nov. 30, the public will continue to have access to the Tussahaw Reservoir for fishing on select weekends during the winter.

The Tussahaw — the largest of the Authority's five reservoirs at 1,466 acres and 9.78 billion gallons — will be open to permitted guests during the weekends of Dec. 14-16, 2018, as well as Jan. 18-20, and Feb. 15-17, 2019.

Fishing and boating, with a trolling or electric powered motor, as well as canoeing and kayaking, are available to HCWA Reservoir Use Permit holders during these three winter weekends. The 2019 Regular Fishing Season will commence the first weekend in March.

HCWA customers, Henry County residents or property owners, can obtain a permit for \$45. They are valid for one calendar year from the date of purchase, and permit holders can bring a guest for free.

The Tussahaw Reservoir Public Use Area and Boat Ramp are located on Collins Way off of Peeksville Road, with maps and more information available at the Authority Headquarters and on the HCWA website at www.hcwa.com.



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