



HCWA Currents



Want to Know What's in Your Drinking Water and Why?

Water Quality Report provides evidence that your tap water is clean and safe to drink

With the publishing of the annual Henry County Water Quality Report on July 1, HCWA customers can have confidence knowing their tap water is clean and safe to drink. The results of this year's Water Quality Report reveal that the HCWA had no violations of drinking water quality standards – meeting or exceeding all regulatory guidelines – during the 2018 calendar year.

The purpose of the 2019 Henry County Water Quality Report is to inform consumers about what is in their drinking water and why, so they can make informed health care decisions.



The Water Quality Report includes measures of regulated substances from samples taken at the source, during drinking water production at both HCWA water treatment plants, and within the HCWA distribution system.

Potential contaminants for which regulatory agencies require testing include those categorized as organic, inorganic, or microbiological, or as the result of disinfectants or disinfectant by-products used in the drinking water treatment process.

The 2019 Henry County Water Quality Report is available on the Authority's website at <http://waterqualityreport.hcwa.com/report.pdf>. Hard copies also are available upon request at the HCWA Headquarters, located at 1695 Highway 20 West in McDonough. Customers can even request to receive a copy via mail by calling 770-957-6659.

Teachers Observe the Water Industry from "Rain to Drain"

A dozen teachers from Henry County Schools received an up-close look at their water utility during the third annual "Rain to Drain" teacher workshops, held June 17-20.

These workshops are designed to show teachers how



The participating Henry County teachers and HCWA staff celebrate another successful summer of Rain to Drain Workshops, which introduce water industry science lessons and activities to the educators for use in their respective classrooms.

the HCWA can provide them with real-world applications of the STEM curricula (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) they teach in their respective schools.

"The Rain to Drain workshops were definitely mind-expanding and filled with useful information that will assist in helping to make real-world connections, suitable for many grade levels in multiple subject areas," says Cheryl Hinton, Fourth Grade Teacher at Oakland Elementary School.

For four consecutive days, the Henry County educators toured a different HCWA facility, while participating in activities that can translate to the classroom. Day 1 took them to the HCWA headquarters and engineering building, Day 2 featured tours of the Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, Day 3 then moved to the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, while Day 4 wrapped up the workshops with a visit to the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

"I hope the teachers who participated are inspired to

engage their students in water-based learning experiences, to teach them the importance of being good stewards of our water resources, and to introduce them to the career opportunities the Water Authority offers," says Heather Toliver, Science Teacher on Special Assignment with Henry County Schools.



Barry Brand (far left), HCWA Operations Supervisor, leads Henry County teachers on a tour of the award-winning Tussahaw Water Plant during this summer's Rain to Drain teacher workshops.

GAWP Honors HCWA Water Professionals

This year's Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) Annual Conference, held July 14-17 in Savannah, included special recognition for two HCWA employees.

Congratulations to Eric Osborne, HCWA Water Production Manager, who received the 2019 Nathan Meridith deJarnette Award. This top industry honor is presented to a water professional in Georgia who has demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in operating a water or water pollution control facility, who has performed outstanding service in instructing and training other water/wastewater plant operators, who has contributed to the advancement of system operations, and/or who has developed operational devices, techniques, or programs.



Eric Osborne (second from left), HCWA Water Production Manager, receives the Nathan Meridith deJarnette Award during the 2019 GAWP Annual Conference in Savannah.

In addition, during the 2019 GAWP Annual Conference, HCWA Division Manager Scott Harrison received the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Silver Water Drop Award. This national award recognizes an individual who has 25 cumulative years of membership in AWWA.

HCWA Outstanding in Financial Reporting

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized the HCWA with its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting – the ninth consecutive year the Authority has received this top industry award.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The HCWA received the Certificate of Achievement due to the quality of its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Award specifically honors the professionalism and quality work of the HCWA Finance Department, under the direction of Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Roderick Burch.

"The Water Authority is very fortunate to have Roderick and his staff here to provide knowledge and expertise in so many areas, and for keeping the utility in good financial standing to make us a model for others around the state," says Lindy Farmer, HCWA General Manager.



The Government Finance Officers Association presented the HCWA Finance Department with the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the ninth consecutive year. Representing the HCWA Finance Department are (left to right): HCWA Chief Financial Officer Roderick Burch, Diane Thomas, Brenda MacDonald, Lisa Davis, Whitney Matthews, Joy Colantoni, and Cassie Inman.

Second Front

Consider Upgrading Your Home with High Efficiency Toilets

There may be financial incentives for you to do so!

As of July 1, the HCWA has started a new year for its Toilet Rebate Program, targeting both single-family and multi-family residents of Henry County.

As a result, you may qualify for a rebate to upgrade your home with water efficient toilets, providing a financial incentive for you to practice wise water use and help us in our water conservation efforts!

By renewing its Toilet Rebate Program, the HCWA can provide credit on the water bills of customers who improve their overall household water efficiency through the installation of newer, low-flow and high-efficiency models.



For single-family residents who install new WaterSense toilets using 1.1 gallons per flush (GPF) or less, you could be eligible for a \$100 rebate. Single-family residential customers whose WaterSense labeled toilets use more than 1.1 GPF may be eligible for a \$50 rebate.

For multi-family residences that are master metered – such as apartments, townhomes and condos – those property owners may qualify for a \$50 rebate for installation of a high efficiency toilet, or a \$75 rebate for installation of an ultra-high-efficiency toilet.

Requirements include homes or properties built in or prior to 1993. You also must have a receipt of your new toilet purchase, and there is a limit of two toilets per property.

Since toilet rebate programs in metro Atlanta began in 2008 as an initiative of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, over 135,000 old, inefficient toilets have been replaced with low-flow and high-efficiency models, resulting in a savings of 2.4 million gallons of water a day.

For more information, contact Lindsey Sanders, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, at 678-583-3809; and you can apply online for the Toilet Rebate Program through the Metro Water District's website at <https://northgeorgiawater.org>.

Don't Forget to Vote on Nov. 5th!

A public service announcement from Henry County

Henry County Government is reminding residents that there may have been a change in your local polling place. To check your voter registration status, your polling place, and to print out a precinct card and sample ballot, please check online at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov.

On Nov. 5, 2019, there will be a county-wide SPLOST vote held at the same time as the city elections. To check to see if you are registered within the city limits and to verify if you are eligible to vote in the city election, again visit www.mvp.sos.ga.gov to check to see if you have a city polling place listed.

If you vote during early voting for this November's election, you'll be able to vote in both the city and county elections at the same location. If you wait until Election Day to vote, you will be required to visit both your local and the city polling locations.

If you have any questions regarding a possible change in your polling location or anything else related to the November election, please contact the Elections and Voter Registration Office for Henry County at 770-288-6448.

The Cubihatcha Kids are Coming!

Volunteers are needed for 3rd grade field trips

The HCWA will welcome more than 3,000 third grade students from Henry County Schools over the course of two weeks in September for the 16th annual Cubihatcha Kids Field Trips.

This event is hosted by the HCWA in partnership with the Henry County Board of Education, sponsors, and partners in education.

During the two weeks of Sept. 16-20, and Sept. 30-Oct. 4, the HCWA Cubihatcha Center outdoor classrooms will be the site of all types of lessons and activities related to third grade STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) curricula.

Volunteers are needed to help carry out one of the biggest and most impactful public education events at the HCWA.

If you'd be interested in helping out during the Field Trips as an instructor or sponsor, please contact the Cubihatcha Center staff at 678-583-3930.



Ross McQueen of the Georgia Farm Bureau, a partner in education for the Cubihatcha Kids Field Trips, provides a lesson on farming and agriculture during this annual event.

HCWA Hunting Season Has Four Events This Fall

The HCWA and its Cubihatcha Center will host another great series of events for the 2019-20 Hunting Season.

This year, the HCWA has scheduled two Youth Deer Hunts, on the Saturdays of Oct. 12 and Oct. 26, followed by a Veterans Deer Hunt on Saturday Nov. 9, and concluding with a Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt to benefit the Henry County Outdoor Education Partnership.

The Youth Deer Hunts and Veterans Hunt are free, while the Waterfowl Fundraiser Hunt is designed to raise money to support outdoor education programming for local students through the Cubihatcha Center. These Hunts are open to HCWA customers, or Henry County residents or property owners.

Applications are available on our website at www.hcwa.com. For more information on the HCWA Hunting Season, call the Cubihatcha Center staff at 678-583-3930.



The HCWA will host four events this Hunting Season. Last year, Joey Dobbs (left) and daughter Josie were two of the parents and children who enjoyed a day in the outdoors together.

Steer clear of the F.O.G.!



Please do not put Fats, Oils, or Grease (F.O.G.) down your sink!

When it comes to F.O.G., cool it, can it, and trash it!

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