



HCWA Currents



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

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Georgia EPD Declares Level I Drought for Henry County

HCWA customers encouraged to conserve water and practice wise water use

With drought conditions worsening throughout metro Atlanta and the state this fall, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division is calling for a Level 1 Drought Response from 103 counties, including Henry.

As a result, the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) is educating its customers about the severity of the drought and its effect on water resources, while encouraging them to practice water conservation and wise water use.

The current drought conditions across Georgia range from abnormally dry to extreme drought, with the greatest impact on the state's crops and agricultural industry. Although, some water supplies also are impacted by the prolonged drought, according to state climatologists.

However, HCWA customers benefit from the utility's independent water supply – that is, a network of five reservoirs totaling more than 18 billion gallons of raw water supply. Still, HCWA customers are encouraged to conserve water and use it wisely.

In addition to encouraging water conservation and wise water use among its customers, HCWA officials note that the current outdoor water use schedule limits outdoor watering year-round to the hours between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. There are exemptions to this limitation listed online at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/water-conservation>.

For additional means of wise water use, citizens can check out the water conservation public information on the HCWA website at: <https://www.hcwa.com/community-education/residential-water-conservation.cms>.

Congratulations GA Model Water Tower Winners

The HCWA would like to thank Austin Road, Locust Grove and McDonough Middle Schools for participating in the 2019 Henry County, Georgia Model Water Tower Competition. The Authority would also like to congratulate the winners among the 50 students, who provided 18 towers for this year's competition.

Those winners included:

- ◆ First Place – Team "Minecrafters" from Austin Road – Jesus Miranda-Orduna, Chase Morgan, and Alex Agbaere.
- ◆ Second Place – Team "Tree Savers" from Austin Road – Beyuti Burrows and Naomi Hernandez.
- ◆ Third Place – Team "Poppin Popcorn" from Locust



Lindsey Sanders (left), HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, awards First Place in the Henry County, Georgia Model Water Tower Competition to Team "Minecrafters" from Austin Road Middle School.

Grove – Alyssa Sherman and Halie Rogers.

- ◆ Best Engineering Design – Team "SpongeBob" from Austin Road – Tru DuBose, Charles Morgan, and TaShaun Bradsher.
- ◆ Best Artistic Design and Best Presentation – Jenna Powers and Rachel Watson.

The Georgia Model Water Tower Competition, held within nine school districts across North Georgia this year, challenges students to design and build functioning model water towers according to specific size and height requirements. The towers were judged according to three criteria – structural efficiency, hydraulic efficiency, and design ingenuity.

For photos from the event, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.

Fishing Season Set for 2020

The HCWA 2020 Regular Fishing Season starts the first weekend in March. For just \$45, Henry County residents or property owners can get a Reservoir Use Permit to fish select HCWA reservoirs on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Permits are good for an entire year from the date of purchase.



Until the Regular Season opens in March, consider these winter fishing weekends in 2020 to keep your skills sharp:

- ◆ January 17-19, 2020
- ◆ February 14-16, 2020.

For more information, check out our website at www.hcwa.com, or contact our staff at 678-583-3930.

Southern Crescent Technical College Partnership

Because of the growing need for certified water and wastewater plant operators within the water profession, the HCWA is turning to Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) for help.

This partnership is trying to generate interest in the College's Water Quality Technician Technical



Matt Little, as a Class II Water/Wastewater Operator at the HCWA Towlaliga Water Plant, has training that future operators can obtain through Southern Crescent Technical College.

Certificate Program, which will include four courses totaling 12 credit hours, at a cost of \$100 per credit hour.

The Program's courses are among the College's class schedule being offered this Spring, with a minimum of 10 students required to enroll.

Once students complete the four courses, the Program then prepares them to take the state's exam, which is a requirement for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators Class III License.

In addition to passing the state exam, students will need three months of work and on-the-job training for each certification at a water or wastewater treatment facility, such as those operated by the HCWA, and then they can apply for their Class III License.

For more information, check out our website at www.hcwa.com. Anyone interested in Water Quality Technician Certification, contact Belinda Bentoski at 770-914-4431 or Belinda.Bentoski@sctech.edu.

Imagine a Day Without Water

Henry County Students who could "Imagine a Day Without Water" took part in the first Art Contest sponsored by the HCWA to celebrate this national day of recognition on Oct. 23. The Art Contest educated students on the value of water and water infrastructure, while encouraging them to practice water conservation, locally.

During the November Authority Meeting, the HCWA recognized winners in four age group categories with \$100 gift cards. The four winning students included:

- ◆ Avery Chhom, 1st Grade Student of Ms. Grace at Hampton Elementary, won the K to 2nd Grade category.
- ◆ Cayden William, 4th Grade Student of Ms. Ireland at East Lake Elementary, won the 3rd to 5th Grade category.
- ◆ Alesia Fitzhugh, a 6th Grade Student of Ms. Beavers and Ms. Parker, at Locust Grove Middle School, won the 6th to 8th Grade category.

And Stella McClellan, a 10th Grade Student of Ms. Rommelman at the Academy of Advanced Instruction, won the 9th to 12th Grade category.

Denise Howard, Teacher at Dutchtown Elementary, won the drawing for a \$100 gift card to be used in the classroom.

For photos from the event, check out our website at www.hcwa.com.



Cayden Williams (right), pictured with her parents Ayanna and Christopher Williams, was one of the four students recognized as a winner of the first "Imagine a Day Without Water" Art Contest.

Second Front

HCWA Receives Three Industry Excellence Awards

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) has recognized the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) for operating one of the highest rated Collection Systems, Water Distribution Systems, and Wastewater Labs in the state.

During the recent GAWP Fall Conference in Athens, the HCWA received the Platinum Award for Wastewater Collection Systems, another Platinum Award for Water Distribution Systems, and a Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) Award for its Wastewater Laboratory.

To receive the Collection System and Water Distribution System Platinum Awards, the HCWA achieved a grade of 95% or higher on the respective system reviews for five consecutive years.



HCWA employees were recognized at the GAWP Fall Conference for winning three major statewide industry awards – the Platinum Award for Collection System Excellence, the Platinum Award for Water Distribution System Excellence, and the Wastewater Laboratory Quality Assurance Award.

The System of the Year Awards recognize those utilities that strive to continually improve their systems through proper management, maintenance, and operation.

The Laboratory QA/QC Award recognizes those utilities who are demonstrating outstanding quality assurance programs, while promoting the professional advancement of laboratories within Georgia.

The ultimate goal of GAWP System and Laboratory Awards is to provide a means for utilities to collaborate and learn from the successes and practices of one another. The awards process provides an avenue for peers to exchange ideas, circulate technical expertise, and offer productive feedback.

Now is the Time to Winterize Your Home

This is a good time to weatherize your home, to prevent potential water leaks or pipe bursts – and subsequent water loss and property damage – 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 completely.
- ✓ 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.

WaterSense fixtures can save water and money!

National Kitchen & Bath Month in October helped to raise awareness about the value of WaterSense labeled showerheads, faucets, and toilets, which are available in a wide variety of styles and price points, with many options to choose from that are ideal for any design and budget. Every fixture that earns the WaterSense label has been tested and independently certified for both water efficiency and performance.

Remodeling an older bathroom with WaterSense labeled fixtures can save up to \$150 annually on your utility bills. By reducing the amount of water needed for a hot shower or shave, WaterSense labeled fixtures can save energy as well.

For families not involved in a

kitchen or bath renovation project, there are still a few simple, affordable upgrades to consider, which can save water, energy and money.

First, switching a showerhead to a WaterSense labeled model can save 2,700 gallons of water annually. Also, replacing the aerators on faucets with WaterSense labeled models could save an additional 700 gallons of water. Finally, replacing old toilet flappers with new ones can prevent one of the most common sources of indoor water leaks, while saving 30 gallons of water or more every day!

For more water conservation tips, check out that page within the Community & Education tab of our website at www.hcwa.com.



Real Men Wear Pink

HCWA Division Manager Scott Harrison is among them

Count the Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) among those who joined the cause of the Piedmont Henry Hospital Real Men Wear Pink Campaign, hoping to raise awareness among customers and employees of the importance of early detection.

In fact, HCWA Division Manager Scott Harrison was among the dozen local men selected to lead the hospital's 11th annual breast cancer awareness campaign. With Harrison leading the way, the HCWA



HCWA employees showing their support for the Piedmont Henry Hospital Real Men Wear Pink breast cancer awareness campaign include (Standing, L to R): Shelley Boggess, Cathy Stevens, Lori Gardner, Meredith McClendon, Karen Lake-Thompson, Scott Harrison, who was selected to participate in this year's campaign, Vicki Mott, Elena Guerrero, Wendy Johnson, and Mimi Reynolds. Seated left is Stacey Snow and seated right is Suzanne Earls.

encouraged employees to wear pink every Thursday during the month of October, which is recognized nationally as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

In addition, HCWA Human Resources sold raffle tickets, with weekly drawings for prizes. Those efforts raised nearly \$800 for the Thomas F. Chapman Family Wellness Center. The HCWA Customer Service Department also had a bake sale for additional fundraising.

The Water Authority encourages its customers to have routine mammograms for early detection of breast cancer for women and men, to prevent deaths from this terrible disease.

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

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