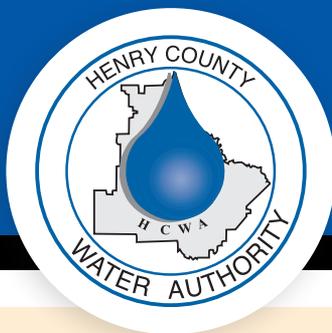


HCWA CURRENTS

Volume 22, Issue 2
Spring 2022



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

Edición en español disponible
en línea en hcwa.com

HCWA HONORS LINDY FARMER FOR 40-YEAR CAREER AS GENERAL MANAGER

The Henry County Water Authority (HCWA) recently honored the career of Lindy D. Farmer, Jr., who retired at the end of last year after serving 40 years as General Manager of the utility.

Elected officials, local dignitaries, current and former HCWA Board Members, Authority employees and retirees, fellow water professionals, as well as family and friends, gathered on March 10, at Eagle's Brooke in Locust Grove, to thank Mr. Farmer for his public service.



Lindy Farmer (center, seated), who retired at the end of last year after serving 40 years as General Manager of the HCWA, is flanked by his family after an event hosted by the Authority in his honor.

According to comments from those in attendance, Mr. Farmer not only made the HCWA one of the model water utilities in the state of Georgia, but he also helped Henry County enjoy quality growth and become one of the most prosperous communities in the state.

Among the highlights of the day included a special Commendation by Governor Brian Kemp, and a Proclamation from the Georgia Senate, both presented to Mr. Farmer by District 10 State Sen. Emanuel Jones.

For the complete feature on Mr. Farmer's Retirement Event, including a photo gallery, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



State Sen. Emanuel Jones (left) presents a Commendation from Gov. Brian Kemp, followed by a Proclamation from the Georgia Senate, honoring Lindy D. Farmer, Jr. (right) for his 40 years of service as General Manager of the HCWA.

BE A PART OF THE FIRST HCWA CITIZEN ACADEMY!

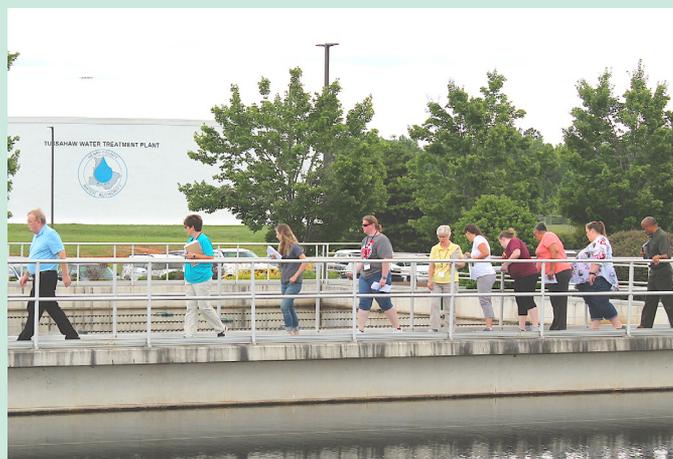
You can be a part of the very first HCWA Citizen Academy! What is this Citizen Academy, you ask? Since water is one of our most precious natural resources, the HCWA Citizen Academy explains how we protect, provide and preserve it!

Participants in the HCWA Citizen Academy will receive three evening classes, with dinner provided, in addition to two private VIP Plant Tours of both a Water and Wastewater Facility, as well as a Boat Tour of one of the Authority's Drinking Water Reservoirs. Graduates of the HCWA Citizen Academy also receive a free T-Shirt to commemorate their participation in the inaugural event and a free Fishing Permit at HCWA Reservoirs for one year.

Enrollment in the HCWA Citizen Academy is limited to 15 people. The schedule includes:

- June 9 – evening class from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., dinner provided.
- June 11 – tour of the Tussahaw Water Plant.
- June 16 – evening class from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., dinner provided.
- June 18 – tour of the Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility.
- June 25 – tour of the Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.
- June 30 – final class from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., dinner and graduation.

For more information, including a form to apply, please visit the "Education & Community" tab on our website at www.hcwa.com, or contact organizer Lindsey Sanders at lindsey.sanders@hcwa.com.



HCWA Operations Supervisor Barry Brand (far left) leads Henry County teachers on a tour of the award-winning Tussahaw Water Plant during a Rain to Drain teacher workshop held prior to the pandemic. The Authority will host a similar program for the public when it kicks off the HCWA Citizens Academy this summer.

SURVEY, DRAWING HIGHLIGHT CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

To celebrate its annual Customer Appreciation Day this year, the HCWA conducted a Customer Service Satisfaction Survey, with gift cards for winners of a drawing among the participants. In addition, customers visiting headquarters on St. Patrick's Day received water conservation gift bags for saving water and money on their monthly bills.

More than 1,600 customers participated in the HCWA Customer Survey, which was available on the HCWA website. The survey asked customers a number of questions ranging from their preference of bottled water vs. tap water, their opinion on the quality and reliability of HCWA water service, their assessment of the professionalism and courtesy of the HCWA customer service staff, the ease of understanding billing and making payments, and more.

Ten winners of the drawing received a \$50 gift card, while an additional grand prize winner received \$500. Those winners included:

Lawvigneaud Harrell
Grand Prize Winner
Cheri Green
Kima Whipple-Jackson
Michael Revak
Jennifer Hyde
Angie Collins
Sophia Thompkins
Sandy Middleton
Chandra May
Tenille Partlow
Jimmy Jones



The HCWA presented gift cards to winners of a special drawing among those 1,600 customers who completed a customer service survey.

Please visit the Photo Gallery on our website at www.hcwa.com for pictures from this year's HCWA Customer Appreciation.

Spruce Up Your Sprinkler System



Inspect
sprinkler
heads.

A broken one
can waste
25,000 gallons of
water in six months!



Select a
WaterSense® labeled
irrigation controller
and water smarter.

Connect
hoses and pipes well.
A leak as small as the
tip of a pen
can waste
6,300 gallons of
water per month!

Direct
spray on
landscapes,
not pavement!



epa.gov/watersense

STREAM AWARD RECOGNIZES RAIN TO DRAIN WORKSHOPS

The HCWA was one of five metro Atlanta water utilities to be recognized by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District with an annual STREAM Award, for educational programs or projects that are Sustainable, Thoughtful, Regional, Engaging, Applicable, and Measured (STREAM).

The HCWA received an honorable mention STREAM Award for its Rain to Drain workshops for teachers from Henry County Schools. Since the start of the program five years ago, Rain to Drain has educated approximately 70 teachers on how STEM curricula can be enhanced through tours and activities at water and wastewater treatment facilities.

During the Rain to Drain workshops, teachers visited the HCWA Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant, Walnut Creek Water Reclamation Facility, Engineering Division, and Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

The HCWA is taking the Rain to Drain workshop model and creating a Citizen Academy this summer, when local residents can learn all about their water utility's facilities and operations through a similar workshop setting. (Please see Citizen Academy program info on page 1.)



The HCWA Rain to Drain Workshops have educated approximately 70 Henry County teachers, such as those pictured during a class prior to the pandemic. As a result, the Metro Water District honored the HCWA with an honorable mention STREAM Award.

HCWA RECOGNIZES ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

The HCWA recently recognized Zoe Tillman, a middle school student at Strong Rock Christian School, as the local winner of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's annual Essay Contest.

Tillman's essay, titled "Georgia's Water," was among the 15 county winners from middle schools across the Metro Water District. This 20th annual Essay Contest welcomed over 500 student participants who researched and wrote 300- to 500-word essays on one of two topics – highlighting an essential water career, or illustrating why a clean, abundant water supply is essential to the region.

For the complete news story on the 2022 Essay Contest Winner, please visit the News archives on our website at www.hcwa.com.



Strong Rock Christian Middle School student Zoe Tillman (center), with her 6th Grade Academy Science Teacher Cindy Runion (left) and HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator Lindsey Sanders (right), received recognition as the Henry County Winner of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's annual Essay Contest.

AN ELECTION DAY REMINDER

Remember these Statewide Election Dates for 2022:

- May 24 – Primary
- June 21 – Primary Runoff
- November 8 – General Election
- December 6 – General Runoff

YOUTH LEADERSHIP HENRY CLASS VISITS HCWA

In an effort to educate the public on where their water comes from and why, the HCWA hosted approximately 40 students from this year's Youth Leadership Henry class for a recent site visit at the Authority's Tussahaw Water Treatment Plant and Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center.

Following an opening session titled "HCWA 101" provided by Lindsey Sanders, HCWA Environmental Compliance Coordinator, students enjoyed a tour of the Tussahaw Plant and completed a service project at the Cubihatcha Center. Students also learned how they can help protect water quality and preserve natural resources.

Finally, the students received insights on what career opportunities might be available to them in the water industry, thanks to Sheila Kern, HCWA Class I Operator who is an Instructor at Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC), teaching the Water Quality Technician Technical Certificate of Credit Program.

For the complete News story and Photo Galleries on the Youth Leadership Henry class visit, please visit our website at www.hcwa.com.



The HCWA hosted the 2022 Youth Leadership Henry class recently at its Tussahaw Plant and Cubihatcha Center.

Zeb Brown (right), Naturalist with the HCWA Cubihatcha Center, instructs students on how to plant various flowers and shrubs.



LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHWAP) AVAILABLE TO HCWA CUSTOMERS

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a federally funded program to help residents in need pay for drinking water and wastewater services. The program offers financial help for paying a water/sewer bill if that bill is in the resident's name and if they can verify a financial hardship or billing burden.

Priorities for funding are given to those households that have an arrearage or past due water bill, have senior citizens 60 years of age or older, or children five years of age or younger.

The local Community Action Agency that administers LIHWAP funding for HCWA customers is the Clayton County Community Services Authority, Inc. If you would like more information about the LIHWAP and how you might qualify for assistance with paying your water/sewer bill, please contact them at 404-363-0575 or www.claytoncountycsa.org.

HCWA KIDS FISHING DAY

The HCWA is hosting a free Kids Fishing Day:

Saturday June 4, 2022
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Cubihatcha Outdoor Education Center
100 Collins Road
Locust Grove, GA 30248



Prizes will be given, and lunch will be provided.

For more information, please call 678-583-3930 or email CommunityEvents@hcwa.com. A Registration Form is available on the HCWA website at www.hcwa.com.

Sponsored by HCWA, Cubihatcha Center, We Need 2 Read (Greg Street), and Teach a Child to Fish (Kendall Newson).

ADMINISTRATION AND LEADERSHIP

Cletonya LaGrand *Chair*
Sandra Rozier *Vice Chair*
Siddiqa Gibson *Secretary/Treasurer*
Jimmy Carter *Member*
Warren Holder *Member*
Fred Mays *Member*

Tony V. Carnell *General Manager*
Kimberly Turner Osborne *Clerk*
Karen Lake-Thompson *Deputy Clerk*



**HENRY COUNTY
WATER AUTHORITY**
1695 Highway 20 West
McDonough, GA 30253
(770) 957-6659
www.hcwa.com