



Old Water Works Park dedicated in honor of MWA Chairman

Frank Amerson applauded for leadership and vision

Proving that hope can come from hardship, on the site where the old MWA Riverside Water Treatment Plant once stood – until damaged from the 1994 flood – is now the newly named Amerson Water Works Park. The facility was dedicated recently to honor the man who played a leading role following that natural disaster, both in rebuilding the Authority's water treatment capabilities and preserving green space for a public park that now bears his name.

Frank C. Amerson, Jr. was visibly touched during the park dedication ceremony hosted by the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail Executive Committee, who elected to rename the old Water Works Park for the MWA Chairman of the Board.

More than 150 guests, including Amerson's family, friends, community leaders, elected officials, as well as MWA board members

and staff, gathered for the special event, held on the park grounds. The park features the Atlanta Gas Light picnic pavilion, the Bibb County Medical Society and Junior League of Macon handicap-usable playground, and hiking trails, which all are operational and open to the public on weekends.

"Frank's leadership has been invaluable to this community over the years, and we are grateful for his vision for this property and this park," says Juanita Jordan, member of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail Executive Committee.

Following the flood that caused the MWA to relocate its water treatment facility to a new site in north Jones County, Amerson led the efforts to decommission the old Riverside Treatment Facility and donate the land to the Urban Development Authority to use as a public park.

New Town Macon and the Macon-Bibb County Parks and Recreation Department are managing the construction, continual expansion of amenities, and public use of Amerson Water Works Park.



Top: MWA Chairman of the Board Frank C. Amerson, Jr. (far left) receives the distinction of having Amerson Water Works Park named in his honor. Making the presentation during the dedication ceremony are (right to left) Ben Porter, on behalf of the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail, Chris Sheridan, on behalf of New Town Macon, and Juanita Jordan, a member of the Trail's executive committee and Executive Director of the Peyton Anderson Foundation.

Above: Samuel Hart (left), Chairman of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners, congratulates Frank Amerson for having Water Works Park named in his honor.

Left: Those taking part in the dedication of Amerson Water Works Park included past and present MWA Board Members (left to right): Frank Patterson, Charlie Bishop, Javors Lucas, Steve Rickman, Frank Amerson, the Heritage Trail's Ben Porter, Ed DeFore, and Bert Bivins.



MWA successful in its petition to modify water use restrictions

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) was successful in its petition, submitted to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) on Jan. 23, to obtain a modification to the (Level II) water use restrictions that had been in place previously. The state EPD granted the Authority's request to allow its customers to add outdoor watering during the evening hours on permitted days, according to the odd-even schedule.

"We wanted to provide our customers with the added flexibility of being able to water

their lawns and landscape when they came home from work," says Tony Rojas, executive director of the MWA.

As a result of the successful petition, MWA customers may now water between the hours of midnight to 10:00 a.m. AND between 4:00 p.m. to midnight, on their allotted days. For odd-numbered addresses, those days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, and for even-numbered addresses, watering is permitted on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays.

"In consideration of the information you

submitted with your request, I have determined that you have provided evidence sufficient to support that water use restrictions established by the State are not necessary to relieve or avoid a local water shortage," says Dr. Carol Couch, EPD Director, in her letter approving the MWA drought response modification petition.

The modification to the Level II restrictions for the MWA, and the subsequent expanded outdoor water use schedule for customers, will be in effect until further notice from the State.

SECOND FRONT

The MWA's Stan Shear (left) receives the Golden Wrench Award from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals and its Executive Director Jack Dozier (right).



MWA receives industry awards

The Macon Water Authority (MWA) returned home from the yearend fall conference of the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) with two awards in hand. Stan Shear received the Golden Wrench Award as the best mechanic within the water industry in the state of Georgia. In addition, the Authority's Frank Amerson Water Treatment Plant received the GAWP/Georgia AWWA Safety Award.

Authority hoping to carry momentum from last year's successful fishing season into 2009

Javors Lucas Lake opens to anglers the first weekend in March

Following a successful year for public fishing at its Javors Lucas Lake, the Macon Water Authority (MWA) is preparing to open the 2009 season the first weekend in March.

Signs that public fishing at the Authority's Javors Lucas Lake is growing in popularity were evident in statistics from last year. In 2008, 557 boaters and 745 individuals fishing on the shore resulted in 1,302 participants paying for access to the reservoir. Accounting for guests, 2,675 visitors, coming from 28 counties, enjoyed fishing on Ja-



Public fishing at Javors Lucas Lake opens the first weekend in March. More than 2,600 people from 28 counties enjoyed fishing on the Authority's reservoir last year.

vors Lucas Lake during the 2008 season.

The 2009 public fishing season begins Thursday, March 5, as anglers again will be allowed to fish during the months of March and April for four days each

week – Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. During May and June, the lake will be open three days per week – Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The lake will be closed during the months of July and August, as participa-

tion has traditionally declined because of soaring temperatures during this time, and these months are also periods of peak demand for drinking water. Javors Lucas Lake will re-open during September and October on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with the last day of fishing this season set for Sunday, Nov. 1, 2009. Fishing also is available on the Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day holidays.

The cost of public fishing at the MWA's Javors Lucas Lake is \$5 per vehicle for those planning to fish on the shore and \$10 for vehicles pulling a boat. Season passes are available for \$100.

For more information on public fishing at Javors Lucas Lake, check out the Authority's Web site at www.maconwater.org.

MWA adjusts customer rates for 2009

In order to assure customers have the highest quality water and sewer services available in the industry, the MWA is adjusting certain rates for 2009.

■ Like last year, the consumption charge is \$1.47 per CCF for water for the first 3 CCF, but \$1.57 per CCF for consumption above 3 CCF, which is a 5 cent increase.

■ The \$1.56 per CCF for sewer for the first 3 CCF also is like last year, but the charge of \$1.66 per CCF for consumption above 3 CCF is a 5 cent increase as well.

■ The monthly base fees for water service for meters up to 2" have not changed.

■ However, the base fees for meters 3" and larger have increased by 8.9 percent.

■ The base fee for all sewer services is \$5.00.

■ For multi-family dwelling units, the minimum charge for water is \$11.91 per unit for 5 units or more, but only \$9.41 for 4 units or less.

■ The minimum charge for sewer is \$8.12 per unit for 5 units or more, but \$5.62 per unit for 4 units or less.

A measure of 100 cubic feet (CCF) of water is approximately 750 gallons. Resi-

dential sewer rates are based on the average consumption of a customer's lowest 8 months of usage within a 12-month period from the previous calendar year.

The difference in service rates for commercial or industrial customers is that they do not pay on an average, but according to their actual consumption. The meter base fee for commercial accounts also changes according to the size of the customer meter.

Select consumption charges and base fees this year have changed for MWA customers in Jones and Monroe Counties as well.

For a complete overview of rate changes, log onto the MWA Web site at www.maconwater.org.

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