



CLAYTON COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

News for Clayton County Water Authority Customers

Vol. 10, Issue 3, Spring 2007

Stormwater Utility Billing Begins May 1

Clayton County Water Authority customers will soon see the new Stormwater Management Program in full swing, bringing with it an improved level of service.

Until now, the Clayton County Government and the Cities of Forest Park, Jonesboro, Lake City, Lovejoy, Morrow and Riverdale independently handled stormwater. Last year, the Clayton County Commissioners and the city councils adopted ordinances giving the Water Authority the responsibility of implementing and managing the new utility to help meet stricter federal and state regulations, maintain water quality and address the county's aging infrastructure. The Stormwater Utility is the fairest way to provide a dedicated funding source for county-wide stormwater management.

Beginning May 1, 2007, all Clayton County Residential property owners will be billed \$3.75 per month for stormwater services. All Non-Residential property owners will be billed based on their property's actual amount of impervious surface. The stormwater fee will be a separate charge from water and sewer. Every penny collected for Stormwater will go directly into the operation of the CCWA's Stormwater Program. For this new fee, you will see an improved level of service. Beginning July 1, all

stormwater structures within the public right-of-way and all pipes directly connected to the right-of-way will be maintained by the CCWA.

Stormwater runoff picks up trash, chemicals and other pollutants and makes its way into our local streams, rivers and raw water



reservoirs. The Authority then has to clean up this water before turning it into Clayton County drinking water. The more polluted the water is going into our reservoirs, the more costly it is to treat. The utility will include programs to address the quality of water running off of our roadways, commercial and industrial

property through development controls, inspections and public education. The program will also address streams that have already been impacted by stormwater runoff by improving drainage characteristics and the habitat for fish and aquatic insects.

A large portion of our county has stormwater pipes and drains that are nearly 50 years old and are reaching the end of their lifespan. Pipe failures can cause sink holes in the roads and on properties that often cost more than \$100,000 to repair. Improving pipes and drains alleviates sink holes, flooding and drainage problems that damage our roadways and local property. A comprehensive inventory will allow us to determine where problems are before failures occur.

The CCWA's new Stormwater Section is already handling Plan Review & Inspection, Floodplain Management, the NPDES Permit Program for stormwater quality and drainage complaints. On July 1, 2007, the CCWA will take full responsibility of the program. For more information on the CCWA's Stormwater Utility, visit <http://www.ccwa.us> or call 770.960.5207.

Only Tap Water Delivers Public Health

In a world where an estimated 3 million people die every year from preventable waterborne diseases, water systems in North America allow us to drink from virtually any public tap with a high assurance of safety.

- A safe water supply is critical to protecting the public health—the first obligation of all water suppliers. Without our modern water systems, diseases such as cholera and dysentery would be part of everyday life.
- In the United States, water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants and must meet close to 90 regulations for water safety and quality. Those water standards are among the worlds' most stringent.
- Community water supplies are tested every day. Tap water undergoes far more frequent testing than bottled water. The Clayton County Water Authority's Water Quality Lab performs more than 200,000 water tests annually.
- Every year water utilities provide customers with a detailed report on the quality of their drinking water. Look for the Clayton County Water Authority's Consumer Confidence Report in your June bill.

For more information, visit www.drinktap.org.



Notes & News

CCWA Recreation Areas Open For Season

The Water Authority's recreational areas are now open through October for fishing, canoeing and picnicking.

The Blalock and Shamrock Reservoirs, which are located at 2610 Shamrock Road (off of Freeman Road) in Jonesboro, are open Wednesday – Sunday from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

The J. W. Smith Reservoir, which is located at 143 Northbridge Road in Hampton, is open Saturday – Wednesday from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

There is a \$5 fee per vehicle, or season passes can be purchased for \$25. For more information on the reservoirs, call 770.603.5605, or visit www.ccwa.us/community information.

The Newman Wetlands Center's trail and picnic areas also offer visitors a chance to enjoy nature while learning the importance of preserving wetlands environments and conserving natural resources. The trail is located at 2755 Freeman Road and is open daily from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. For more information, call 770.603.5603, or visit www.ccwa.us/facilities.



Wetlands Center Hosts Annual High School Competition

High school students from Rockdale, Henry and Fulton counties converged onto the Newman Wetlands Center on March 2 for the West Region Envirothon 2007 Competition. Envirothon is North America's premier environmental education competition.



The outdoor studies program supplements the science curriculum of students in grades 9-12. The day-long competition involved written and hands-on testing at five stations: Aquatics, Forestry, Soils, Wildlife and Energy.

Rockdale 4-H Team #1 (shown in

photo) took 1st Place during this year's competition. The teams with the highest cumulative scores advance to the State competition being held at the Burton 4-H Center in late March. Envirothon is open to all high school students in the country, including public, private and home school facilities. Any Clayton County high schools interested in participating in 2008 can visit www.georgiaenvirothon.org for information.

CCWA Employees Share Experiences with Local Students During Career Day Events at Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Water Authority employees recently reached out to students at several Clayton County Public Schools to give them a glimpse into what it's like to work in the water industry. During Career Day presentations, employees talked to students about the Authority's operations, their specific job at the Authority and how important it is to graduate from high school. Students learn how the CCWA recycles and reuses water, as well as how the Authority makes sure its water quality meets all state and federal standards. In February, employees spoke to students at Lovejoy High School and Mundys Mill High School. During March, employees visited students at Kendrick Middle, Riverdale Middle, Babb Middle and Jonesboro High School.



During Mundys Mill High School's Career Day, students heard from Stormwater Management Technician **John Beale** (at left) and Training & Development Coordinator **Tamika McLester** (at right).

Northeast WRF Expansion & Upgrade Ahead of Schedule

The expansion and upgrade of the Clayton County Water Authority's Northeast Water Reclamation Facility continues running months ahead of schedule. The facility is located close to Highway 42, just east of I-675, and provides wastewater treatment to the northeast portion of Clayton County.

The facility's wastewater treatment capacity is being expanded from a maximum of 6 million gallons per day (MGD) to 10 MGD. This expansion/upgrade is the largest single project within the Authority's Master Plan 2000, with a construction value of \$55.6 million. The project is being funded through the proceeds of the Series 2005 Bond Issue. "Expansion of this plant is critical to meet the demands of the growth we are seeing in the northeast part of the county," said CCWA Board Chairman Pete McQueen.

When Crowder Construction Company began the project in August 2005, it was scheduled to be completed by October 2008. However, construction is already 75 percent complete and is expected to be finished by early 2008. One of the biggest challenges with this project is continuing to operate the existing plant in the midst of the construction. "We could not be more pleased with the way Crowder Construction Company has managed this project," added McQueen. "And our Northeast Plant staff has done an excellent job keeping the existing plant operating efficiently while working around the construction."

Expansion of the Northeast WRF should be the last major undertaking of this kind by the Authority for quite some time.

Fat-Free Sewers: Proper Disposal of Fats, Oils & Grease

Fats, oils and grease are bad for sewers. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains, as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where does grease come from? Most is the byproduct of cooking (meat fats, cooking oil, shortening, sauces, dairy products, food scraps and butter or margarine). When grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink, it sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

And the results can include: raw sewage overflowing into your home or your neighbor's home; an expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid by you, the homeowner; raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards and streets; potential contact with disease-causing organisms; and an increase in operation and maintenance costs for the Water Authority—which causes higher sewer bills for our customers.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots/pans and utensils into a can or the trash for disposal.
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Use baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids. Empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.

Source: Water Environment Federation

Leak Detection Can Save Water & Money

A small leak, about the size of a pin head, dripping at one drop per second can add up to 7 gallons of water a day. A large leak, the kind most often found in toilets, can waste 200 gallons of water or more per day! check out the following when you suspect a leak:

Faucets

Check faucets in the bathroom and kitchen periodically. Worn washers are most often the cause of dripping faucets.



Toilets

Check toilets for leaks often. The most common causes of a leaking toilet are:

1. float device set too high, which causes water to run into the overflow tube
2. a warped or cracked flapper

Inexpensive toilet leak kits are available at home improvement stores.

Don't forget to use your water meter to detect leaks.

Use your water meter to determine if you have a leak:

1. Make sure no water is being used inside or outside (no washing machine filling, no shower running, no watering outdoors, etc.)
2. Locate your water meter box. Carefully remove the cover and lift the top of the meter.

Find the red Leak Indicator on the meter dial. If all of your water sources are off and the Leak Indicator is rotating, you may have a leak. Leaks can waste thousands of gallons of water in just a few days. It pays to fix leaks promptly.

CCWA Customer Connection

CCWA Web Site



Log on to www.ccwa.us to stay up-to-date on what is happening at the Authority. Click on to learn more about:

- [Stormwater Utility](#)
- [Payment Options](#)
- [Wetlands Center](#)
- [Vendor Registration](#)
- [Community Use Buildings](#)
- [Upcoming Workshops and Events](#)
- [Water Quality Reports](#)
- [Fishing and Hunting Recreation Areas](#)
- [Developer Information](#)
- [Do-It-Yourself Water Assessment](#)

Convenient Payment Options

Bank Draft

Have your monthly bill automatically drafted from your bank, credit union or savings & loan. You will still receive a monthly statement. The draft will occur on the first Wednesday after 10 days from the bill date. To sign up for the Bank Draft Payment Option, call 770.961.2130, then press "2".

Drop Boxes

CCWA Headquarters

1600 Battle Creek Road, Morrow

Hicks Water Production Complex

1693 Freeman Road, Jonesboro

Riverdale City Hall

6690 Church Street, Riverdale

526 Forest Parkway, Suite A, Forest Park

By Phone

1.800.584.1227

Mark Your Calendar

CCWA Business Opportunities

2nd Monday of each Month

CCWA Headquarters

1600 Battle Creek Road, Morrow

2 p.m.

The Clayton County Water Authority holds a Business Opportunity Meeting each month to give companies the chance to learn about current and future business opportunities. For information, call 770-960-5213.

Septic Tank Maintenance Workshop

Thursday, April 19, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Board of Health BT Training Room

1117 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro

A poorly functioning septic system is a potentially serious cause of water pollution. Like an automobile, septic systems need periodic maintenance to extend the life of the system and to avoid costly emergency repairs. For information, call 678.610.7199.

Clayton County Water Authority • 1600 Battle Creek Road • Morrow, GA 30260

770.961.2130 • www.ccwa.us

CCWA Board of Directors:

Pete McQueen, Chairman • Lloyd Joiner, Vice Chairman • Marie Barber, Secretary/Treasurer

Wes Greene, John Westervelt, John Chafin and Doug Bonner

General Manager P. Michael Thomas • Deputy Manager Malachi "Mike" C. Bennett, III