Announcement:

CCWSA’s drinking water won the District 1 Georgia Association of Water Professionals

2018 Bests of the Best Tap Water Taste Test!

**About Drinking Water Week**

For more than 40 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week, a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in daily lives.

**Water community invites consumers to ‘Protect the Source’ during Drinking Water Week**

Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) kicks off this year’s Drinking Water Week with an invitation to “Protect the Source” throughout Cherokee County***.*** *CCWSA*, the American Water Works Association and the water community across North America will celebrate Drinking Water Week by recognizing the vital role drinking water plays in daily lives. Focus will be placed on ways in which water consumers can take personal responsibility in caring for their tap water and protecting it at its source.

**“When we get to know our local drinking water sources, we come to understand that it is our duty as consumers and community stewards to protect and preserve them,” said AWWA Chief Executive Officer David LaFrance. “Drinking Water Week provides a great opportunity to learn the various ways in which we can each protect our source water so it’s available for future generations.”**

**CCWSA encourages getting to know local H20 during Drinking Water Week**

As Drinking Water Week continues, *CCWSA*joins the American Water Works Association and water professionals across North America in encouraging water consumers to get to know their local H2O.

Finding information about local water is simple. As required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, water utilities must provide customers with an annual water quality report, also called a Consumer Confidence Report. A CCR identifies the quality of local drinking water and if any contaminants are detected and if so, which ones. Also available in the report is information on each community’s local source for drinking water. The water source for Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority is the Etowah River. CCWSA recently updated the Source Water Assessment. Information can be found at <http://ccwsa.com/water/source-water-assessment/>.

The 2017 CCR can be found at  ***http://ccwsa.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CCWSA-Water-Quality-Report-2017.pdf.***

**Water community urges collaboration between farmers, utilities to protect source water**

The *CCWSA*joins the American Water Works Association in urging the collaboration between water utilities and farmers to protect drinking water.

Nutrients from agricultural operations can wash into streams, rivers and lakes and ultimately impact drinking water supplies for communities downstream. However, farmers, water utilities and other community partners can work together to combat the problem.

AWWA recently produced a whiteboard animation video to illustrate how partnerships between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, water utilities and farmers can be key in protecting drinking water sources.

“Farmers, ranchers and water professionals all share the same water, the water that eventually flows from our tap,” said AWWA Chief Executive Officer David LaFrance. “Drinking Water Week is a good time to recognize that protecting our source water is the best way to assure safe drinking water in our communities.”

**CCWSA encourages households to identify, eliminate lead pipes, plumbing**

As Drinking Water Week continues, the ***CCWSA*** joins the American Water Works Association in encouraging consumers to identify and eliminate lead service lines and lead in home plumbing. Lead presents health concerns for people of all ages, particularly pregnant women, infants and young children. If consumers live in homes where lead is in contact with drinking water, they may be at risk of exposure.

A study from the Association showed that lead service lines may be present in between six and 10 million homes in the United States. Water providers can adjust water chemistry to reduce the potential that lead will dissolve into water, and households can also take steps to reduce possible exposure. Still, AWWA advises that lead be removed where possible.

To determine if lead is present in pipes or plumbing, homeowners or tenants can consult with a licensed plumber***.*** If lead components are found, ***CCWSA*** recommends that households explore options for replacing them. Households can find out more about their water quality by having it tested by a certified laboratory.

“As long as lead is in contact with the water we drink, some risk remains,” said AWWA Chief Executive Officer David LaFrance. “Water providers treat water to high standards of quality, but we all can play a role in keeping it safe at the tap. Let’s all work together to get the lead out.” More information about lead in drinking water is available on DrinkTap.org.

**CCWSA advocates for conserving water resources**

As Drinking Water Week concludes, ***CCWSA,*** the American Water Works Association and water professionals across North America encourage consumers to conserve water both to preserve water supplies and protect water resources.

As many North American regions continue to face drought conditions, it’s essential to avoid waste through conservation practices to protect precious source water. Water consumers can practice conservation by using water wisely at home through the following steps, which are available on DrinkTap.org:

• Repair leaky faucets, indoors and out.

• Fill your sink or basin when washing and rinsing dishes.

• Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they are full.

• Take short showers instead of baths.

• Turn off the water to brush teeth, shave and soap up in the shower. Fill the sink to shave.

• Repair leaky toilets. Add 12 drops of food coloring into the tank, and if color appears in the bowl one hour later, the toilet is leaking.

• Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads.

• Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.

• Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container (to prevent mosquito larvae growth).

• Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, decks and porches, rather than hosing off these areas.

“Safeguarding water by using it wisely is everyone’s responsibility,” said AWWA Chief Executive Officer David LaFrance. “Conserving water at home means we’re saving our precious water supplies and, in the long run, protecting our source water, too.” More information about drought and water conservation is available on DrinkTap.org.