



News Advisory

Release date: September 1, 2016

Contact: Barbara Shaw, Public Affairs Mgr. 251 694-3113

MAWSS Joins National *Imagine a Day Without Water* Campaign to Raise Awareness About Vulnerable Infrastructure Systems



Photo: Bienville tank

Construction continues at MAWSS Park Forest Plaza on an above ground water storage tank to replace the old Bienville Reservoir.

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) is joining officials, drinking water and wastewater providers, advocacy organizations and infrastructure experts in the national *Imagine a Day Without Water* campaign, an effort to educate the public about the water infrastructure crisis currently facing the United States. Organized by the Value of Water Coalition, hundreds of organizations across the country are taking part in efforts to raise awareness about the crucial need for investment to ensure that no community in America is left without water and the infrastructure that brings it to and from homes and businesses.

MAWSS will be sharing images and messages from now until September 15, the nationwide day for the virtual experience, on social media platforms including Facebook and twitter, to educate the public and engage citizens to think about the essential role water plays in our lives, and the threat that aging and underfunded water and wastewater infrastructure poses to our community and economy.

“Mobile is fortunate to have an abundant supply of safe and exceptional drinking water, but the infrastructure that delivers it to homes and businesses has in many cases exceeded its useful life

expectancy,” said MAWSS Director Charles Hyland. “Without careful planning and resources, our community could experience a day without water and that would be a crisis.”

Current construction of a new \$3.5 million ground level water tank at the corner of Moffett Road and Forest Hill Drive is one example of the investment needed to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy safe drinking water. The 6 million gallon tank replaces the Bienville Reservoir which served the Mobile community for more than 100 years until it was taken out of service last fall when a storm damaged the lining and cover. Tank demolition revealed that underground pipes and valves were also wearing out.

“Our system is showing the effects of more than a century of running 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, “ continued Hyland.

He also noted that the problems MAWSS experiences with sanitary sewer overflows during heavy rain events are due to aging pipes.

“Without further investments, these systems will experience more frequent failures and disruptions as they try to keep up with growing needs.”

Public attention frequently focuses on the things we see every day like roads, bridges and tunnels. Yet the infrastructure that reliably brings clean water to homes and businesses remains out of sight and out of mind until a problem occurs.

About MAWSS

Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the health, safety and economic well-being of the community through responsible management of water resources, while providing superior customer service. MAWSS is committed to providing exemplary drinking water to homes and businesses, and collecting and treating wastewater so it can be safely and beneficially returned to our environment. For more information, visit www.mawss.com.

