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MAWSS Dedicates New Operation Center



The MAWSS Board poses outside the Wesley A James Operation Center located at MAWSS Park Forest Plaza on Moffett Rd.



The family of the late Rev. Wesley A. James with the dedication plaque for the new MAWSS Operations Center named after the long-time MAWSS Board member.

Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) honored the past and celebrated the future with the dedication, September 26, of the new Wesley A. James Operation Center in the MAWSS Park Forest Plaza on Moffett Rd. The Center is named for the late Reverend Wesley James, a religious community leader and long time MAWSS Board member who played a significant role in the utility's history. James was remembered for his efforts to regionalize wastewater services and for establishing the Underutilized Business Enterprise Program, aimed at increasing the number of minority and woman owned businesses that provide services to MAWSS. His many contributions were remembered during a brief ceremony attended by family, colleagues and dignitaries. A plaque bearing his image was unveiled.

Customers can visit the new center to pay their bills or get hook up information from the utility's mapping department. The real benefit will come from more efficient and cost effective operations. The new facility provides a more central location for MAWSS and is expected to reduce fuel use and travel time for MAWSS crews. Adding to the efficiency, departments that interact with each other are physically located in the same building making it easier to collaborate on projects. To improve response capabilities during hurricanes, the facility provides an alternate fuel site and fuel storage, secured parking for MAWSS response vehicles and climate controlled storage for important documents and computer facilities.

The 42,000 square foot facility, once a grocery store, was renovated at a cost of \$2,717,557. It features a state-of-the-art meeting room for MAWSS Board meetings and employee functions, energy efficient heating and cooling and sensor activated lights to control operating costs. The décor was done in environmental colors and features nature photos from Big Creek Lake, the source of MAWSS drinking water. According to MAWSS Chair Maynard Odom, the facility reflects what's important to MAWSS.

“Our new facility highlights our care for our customers as well as our concern for the environment,” said Odom. “We will meet customer needs more efficiently and effectively, helping MAWSS become the model utility that Rev. James always envisioned.”

MAWSS will continue to operate a Customer Payment Center and Drive-up window at its mid-town location, 207 N. Catherine Street. Both centers are open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The Drive-up opens at 7 a.m.

About MAWSS

Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) is one of the largest environmental and public health protection institutions in the Mobile metropolitan area. 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 dedicated to providing exemplary drinking water to customers' 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.