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Fayette County Student Wins Water Essay Contest

Davis Knowles, a student at Whitewater Middle School, is the Fayette county winner of the annual, Clean Water Campaign/waterSmart Essay Contest. Linda Wells, Fayette County Commission Vice-Chair, presented his award on Tuesday, November 9, at 2:45 PM.

Commissioner Wells said, "It is an honor to present this award to the student that was selected as the county winner in the Clean Water Campaign/waterSmart Contest." She added, "We have three sources of water, Lake Kendron, Lake Peachtree and Lake Horton and in Fayette County, we can produce over 20 million gallons of water each day."

Commissioner Wells announced Davis Knowles as the Fayette County winner of the contest and presented him with a poster and certificate in front of over 100 students that participated in the contest.

The winning essay took a clever and unique approach. In the essay, Knowles created a make-believe town called Hydroville. This town was not careful with its water and ended up in bad shape. The essay highlights what happens if you do not conserve water and prevent pollution. "The now browned and crumpled landscape of Hydroville is a result of carelessness," Knowles writes in his winning essay describing the fictional town of Hydroville where the community did not conserve water and are now living with a limited supply. "People abused the valuable resource of water and now pay for their actions every day of their lives. The freedom to bath as often as you like, the freedom to choose the foods that you want to eat and the freedom to choose how to spend relaxation time is now controlled by the consumption and use of water."

The annual essay contest is held to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution is important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program was to encourage students to create solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro Atlanta.

The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Winners were selected in each county and an overall winner was selected from the county winners. County winners were awarded a Clean Water Campaign / waterSmart certificate given by their respective elected official at an award presentation. To view the essays go to the Campaign's website (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) and click on the essay contest link.

About the Clean Water Campaign

The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the Atlanta region.

About waterSmart

The **waterSmart** program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority to educate metro area residents about "state of the science" methods for conserving water while maintaining beautiful lawns and landscapes. waterSmart tips were developed in conjunction with the Georgia Water Wise Council and the Cobb County Extension Service.