



WASA goes beyond federal regulations to ensure water quality

Although District drinking water is well in compliance with federal regulations for lead levels, the DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) will continue its program to replace all publicly owned lead service lines in the city. Service lines are pipes that carry water from the water main in the street to the home. As WASA spends more than \$400 million to replace all 29,000 known lead service lines in public space, homeowners are strongly encouraged to replace the portion of the line on their property. Finan-



cial assistance is available in the form of grants, low-inter-

est loans, and installment payments to eligible customers.

Since August 2003, WASA has replaced more than 6,500 public lead service lines with copper pipes. In addition to the lead pipe replacements, WASA continues its commitment to go beyond current regulatory requirements with aggressive water quality monitoring and flushing.

WASA purchases its water from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Washington Aqueduct for distribution to District customers. The decline in lead

levels over the last 12 months has been attributed to a change in water chemistry to reduce the corrosive nature of water on lead pipes and plumbing fixtures that contain lead.

For more information about lead service line replacement, contact the Lead Services Hotline at (202) 787-2732, email waterquality@dcwasa.com, or visit www.dcwasa.com/lead/scheduled_replacements.cfm for a list of city blocks scheduled for lead service line replacement in 2006.

WASA's Board to review proposed water and sewer rate changes

WASA's Board of Directors is considering a seven percent (7%) water and sewer retail rate increase, effective October 1, 2006.

This increase, from \$4.84 per hundred cubic feet (Ccf) to \$5.18 per Ccf, will raise the average residential monthly bill by \$3.00 from \$46.41 to \$49.41. The rates as proposed are:

- Retail metered water service from \$1.93 per Ccf to \$2.07 per Ccf
- Retail sanitary sewer service from \$2.91 per Ccf to \$3.11 per Ccf

- Right of Way/PILOT fee from \$0.42 per Ccf to \$0.44 per Ccf

The Board is also reviewing a proposed \$3.11 per Ccf groundwater sewer charge for property owners who pump groundwater from their property into the District sewer system.

Rate increases are primarily needed to pay for WASA's 10-year, \$2.1 billion capital improvement program (CIP). The CIP includes the initial phases of the combined sewer overflow reduction plan that will

With the proposed rate increase, one gallon of WASA water still costs less than a penny delivered to your tap.



help clean up the Anacostia and Potomac rivers and Rock Creek, as well as the \$400 million program to eliminate the publicly owned portion of lead service lines.

The Board has scheduled a public hearing to get your

feedback on the proposed rate changes. The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 8, 6:00 pm, at 777 North Capitol Street, NE. Your comments and questions are important to the review process. For more information, call (202) 787-2330.

Celebrate Earth Day and help clean up the Anacostia

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 22—the annual Earth Day Clean-up and Celebration for the Anacostia River.

From 8:30 am until noon, volunteers will gather along the Anacostia River at various sites throughout the District and Maryland to pick up trash around the banks and the watershed.

WASA also helps to keep District rivers clean by operating two skimmer boats that collect an aver-



Area youth regularly collect trash around the historically significant Anacostia River in southeastern DC.

age of 500 tons of trash each year, primarily from the Anacostia River.

For more information about the clean-up locations, directions or to sign up, contact the Anacostia Watershed Society at (301) 699-6204.

Manage your weight with fruits and vegetables

Using fruits and vegetables as substitutes for portions of meat, cheese, rice, pasta and other high calorie foods will not only help you lose weight, but may also reduce high blood pressure and levels of bad cholesterol. Here are some tips on how you can do it:

Breakfast. Substitute spinach, onions, or mushrooms for one of the eggs or half of the cheese in your omelet to add volume and flavor with fewer calories.

Lunch. Substitute vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, or onions for two ounces of cheese and two ounces of the meat in your sandwich. It will fill you up and reduce your calorie intake.

Dinner. Add one cup of chopped vegetables such as broccoli, tomatoes, squash, onions, or peppers, while removing one cup of the rice or pasta in your favorite dish.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/5aday.



Before you dig, call Miss Utility

With warmer weather on the way, you may be thinking about the many outdoor projects you want to tackle this spring. If your outdoor projects involve major digging, don't start before you make a call to "Miss Utility"—it's required by law. Digging in your yard can lead to cutting utility lines and a disruption of services and may cause life threatening personal injury. "Miss Utility" is a one-call notification system

used in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The "Miss Utility" center notifies participating utilities of upcoming excavation work so that underground utilities can be located and marked in advance to prevent damage or harm. Call "Miss Utility," at (800) 257-7777, at least two working days (48 hours) before digging. In Northern Virginia, you can reach "Miss Utility" at (800) 522-7001.



WASA employees support Hurricane Katrina relief



WASA employees donated \$36,298 to the American Red Cross for its Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund. The funds presented to the Red

Cross at the December Board meeting included personal cash contributions and more than 755 hours of unused annual leave.

For more information, visit WASA's web site at www.dcwasa.com.

Para leer este folleto en Español, por favor visite nuestra página web www.dcwasa.com.

Report Emergencies 24 Hours a day!

To report improper use of hydrants, clogged catch basins, water main leaks, or suspected sewer backups, call (202) 612-3400.

To reach WASA's Lead Services Hotline, call (202) 787-2732.