

WHAT'S ON **TAP**



NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS • FALL ISSUE



New program helps residents replace lead service lines

New legislation that helps homeowners afford lead service line replacement went into effect October 1. The new program will cover 50% to 100% of costs to replace lead pipes on private property.

Every property owner regardless of income can now replace their lead pipes for free when DC Water conducts water main replacements or emergency repairs affecting their service line. Residents do not need to apply for the discount and will be contacted by DC Water in advance of these projects.

Separately, generous assistance is now available for more than 10,000 customers who have lead pipes on private property, but non-lead pipes in public space. In these cases, every property owner can replace their lead pipes at a 50% discount, and some will qualify for 80% or 100% discounts depending on household size and income. Eligibility for these discounts is determined by the DC Department of Energy and Environment.

Customers should visit dcwater.com/leadmap or email lead@dcwater.com or **(202) 787-4044** to determine if they have lead pipes. Customers should then visit dcwater.com/lead-assist or call **311** to apply for discounted replacements.

Property owners provide a quote for proposed work by a DC-licensed plumber or contractor with the application. Guidance for project work is available at dcwater.com/LSR-guidelines.

In addition, the new law requires landlords and home sellers to disclose the existence of lead pipes on residential properties, and the results of any past lead testing. More information about the issue of lead, tips to reduce risk of lead exposure, and information about the law can be found at dcwater.com/lead.

CEO's Message

Greetings,



In the past year, I made a commitment that we would hire, train, and prepare District residents for careers at DC Water. We met that challenge, developing a recognized apprenticeship program that provides on-the-job-training (OJT) work experience under the direction and oversight of capable and experienced journey workers, coupled with necessary classroom-related training.

We already had a local hiring program to place qualified applicants with contractors working on DC Water projects. This new, robust apprenticeship program prepares individuals to meet the requirements for both certifications and work experience for a position at DC Water.

We established apprenticeship programs in HVAC, plumbing, sewer, wastewater treatment and utility quality assurance. They range from two years to five years. Our apprentices are paid employees working 2,000 hours of OJT and an additional 144 (unpaid) hours of classroom training. They receive pay increases each year of their apprenticeship and will be ready to step into DC Water jobs upon certification and graduation.

Our inaugural class of 14 new apprentices were selected from more than 100 applicants. They officially began work in September. I personally welcome each of them and wish them much success. They are the future of DC Water.

David L. Gadis, CEO
ceosuggestions@dcwater.com

Protect your pipes this winter

- To prevent frozen pipes in severe cold weather, allow cold faucets to drip and open cabinet doors if you have uninsulated pipes under sinks on exterior walls.
- You may want to install a "pipe sleeve" for water pipes that are not insulated. Building supply stores carry these and other supplies for insulating pipes.
- Find the water shut-off valve in your home in advance of a water emergency, so you know where to go to stop the water quickly if a pipe should burst.
- Disconnect garden hoses and, if practical, use an indoor valve to shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.
- If you are going away for an extended period, be sure to maintain adequate heat inside your home at no lower than 55 degrees.
- Open the outside hose bibs to allow any water in the line to drain out. Keep this outside valve open.
- If your pipes do freeze, please visit dcwater.com/cold-weather-pipes

For emergency service inside your home contact a licensed plumber. Call the DC Water 24-hour emergency hotline at **202-612-3400** for water emergencies on public property.



Local artists beautify the District one storm drain at a time

DC Water launched a contest urging local artists to paint their vision of a healthy Anacostia River. The winners were to paint their masterpieces on a unique canvas—storm drains. Locations were selected throughout the neighborhoods that are being served by the Clean Rivers Project.

The Clean Rivers infrastructure projects are vital to improving the health of the Anacostia River and its ecosystem. Large engineering feats and green infrastructure solutions combine to keep combined sewage out of local waterways.

For the artists, gracing the sidewalk with their vision not only provides an uplifting experience for those who traverse these neighborhoods, it is also a reminder that what goes down these storm drains must be cleaned before emptying to our waterways.

More than a dozen local artists answered the call and produced designs. The judging panel selected five winners. Each received \$500 and had the ability to select their storm drain location. The winning artists ranged from high school students to adult fulltime artists, and all are District

residents. **Yahnae Riddick**, a senior at Eastern High School, painted the storm drain in front of her school, where she and her fellow classmates walk by it every day.

Mark Garrett, a lifelong resident along the Anacostia River says he is proud to commit to the idea of Eco-Awareness through the means of art in his community.

Mark Walker, whose storm drain painting tells the story of water treatment, enjoys the challenge of creating a thought-provoking piece requiring viewer participation. He aims to encourage others in their creativity.

Sierra Koker has been studying art for the past six years both at Duke Ellington School of the Arts and at the Tyler School of Art at Temple University. She recently collaborated on her first mural on U Street.

Mackenzie Mathews envisions the future of the Anacostia River as teeming with native species swirling above, below, and between the kayakers, paddle boaters, and fisherman of Washington, D.C. "Everyone is healthier when rivers are clean," she says. For more information and to view all submissions, please visit: dcwater.com/content/caacr-submissions.

