

WHAT'S ON



TAP?

NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 14 ISSUE 6

General Manager's Message: Drinking Water Quality Report Now Available



Dear Customers,

Every year, DC Water produces a report on our water quality, covering the previous year's performance. There is a full-length edition, which includes many technical specifications, and this year, we created a shorter, summary

document. This summary of the report will be mailed to every home in the District, even those who do not pay a DC Water bill, like apartments. It should be in your mail soon.

If you would like to read the full-length 2013 Drinking Water Quality Report, it is now available online at dcwater.com/waterreport or we can mail you a copy upon request. **To request a mailed copy, please call (202) 787-2200.**

These reports are a great opportunity to learn how reliable and affordable your drinking water is. Tap water is subject to more stringent regulations than most products you can use at home – including bottled water. We hope you'll take the time to learn how DC Water works to provide high quality, great tasting tap water.

DC Water performs thousands of water quality tests each year. You can find these test results, as well as answers to common questions about water quality, at dcwater.com/waterquality.



George S. Hawkins
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com

Lady Bird Ducks Underground

For the Lady Bird watchers, DC Water created a short video showing the lowering of the giant tunnel boring machine, piece by piece, into the shaft where she will begin her critical mission.

"Lady Bird," named for Lady Bird Johnson, environmentalist and First Lady, will

bore the first leg of the tunnel system that will store combined wastewater until it can be treated at Blue Plains. This will reduce combined sewer overflows to the Anacostia River by 98 percent.

Watch Lady Bird duck underground at: [youtube.com/watch?v=Sng5Ve4ouF0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sng5Ve4ouF0)

Follow her on twitter at: [@LadyBird](https://twitter.com/LadyBird)



DC Water Supports Pride Parade

On June 8, a dozen DC Water employees, including General Manager George Hawkins, participated in the Capital Pride Parade, marching in the parade, handing out candy and cooling the crowd with super soaker water pistols.



Children's Water Festival Teaches Value of Water



DC Water co-hosted the third annual Children's Water Drop Festival with Garfield Elementary School on June 11. Wendy the Waterdrop and DC Water staff entertained more than 100 students while teaching the value of water.

Students learned about watershed protection and water conservation through interactive exhibits, a film and activities. The event is held each year at a District school to make students more aware of their water supply and environmental challenges.

Vehicle to Aid in Emergency Response

When water or sewer service is interrupted, it is urgent. Sometimes, it's an emergency. When a major repair takes top priority due to widespread outages, public safety or serious risk to property, DC Water personnel may need to be at the scene for days.

A new Mobile Command Center, partially grant-funded, provides facilities for a strategic and coordinated response. It houses a small conference area where interagency heads can collaborate and provides vital communications including laptop docking stations, radios, phones, wi-fi, Ethernet and electric power supply. In addition, it has a camera and streaming video capability.

The Mobile Command Center will be used during extreme weather events and complex water main breaks and sewer repairs.



The Sweet Smell of Success



DC Water, the National Park Service and several community groups cut the ribbon June 4 to the first of six odor abatement facilities along the Potomac Interceptor. These buildings will provide relief along this 50-mile long, large-diameter sewer that runs from several points near Washington Dulles International Airport, along the Potomac River to the Potomac Pumping Station in Washington, DC. The wastewater is conveyed to, and treated at, the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The interceptor sewer was built in the 1960s, but over the years complaints surfaced about odor coming from vents along the sewer pipe, especially along the scenic C&O Canal. The vents allowed gases to the open air above and were part of the original design to aid in the gravity flow and to keep sewer gases from corroding the pipes.

DC Water's engineers studied the problem and analyzed several solutions, choosing to build the six "odor-scrubbing" buildings. By venting the gases through large amounts of carbon in the facilities, DC Water will be able to remove the majority of the vents. Already, about half have been removed.

This project was more than 15 years in the making, and required more than 40 permits through a dozen agencies, but finally the time has come. The buildings will bring fresher air to the C&O Canal and beyond. The DC site opened June 4, three Maryland facilities will soon be complete and two Virginia buildings start construction later this summer.