

# WHAT'S ON TAP



NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS • VOLUME 18 ISSUE 6



Poster contest winners: (L-R) Darrel Good, Jaylin Wheeler and Gawan Baldwin

## Your Water – To Know It Is To Love It

To celebrate National Drinking Water Week, DC Water sponsored a poster and poetry contest for students in the District of Columbia Public School System. Students were encouraged to express through poetry and art how they use tap water in their daily lives and why tap water is beneficial.

The contest ran during the spring and winning entries were selected during National Drinking Water Week. Entries were judged by how well they reflected the theme of the contest, their originality and creativity. DC Water representatives visited five schools to present winners with ribbons and gift cards.

Congratulations to these students and their teachers.

For photos of all the winners, please visit [dcwater.com/contestwinners](http://dcwater.com/contestwinners)

*Your water... your water – to know it is to love it. Don't have to go to the store, just get it from your faucet...*

### POETRY

**1st Place: Brett Burch**  
Hardy Middle School

**2nd Place: Pedro Reynoso**  
Tubman Elementary

**3rd Place: Miajah Spriggs**  
Kelly-Miller Middle School

### POSTER

**1st Place: Jaylin Wheeler**  
Johnson Middle School

**2nd Place: Gawan Baldwin**  
Johnson Middle School

**3rd Place: Darrel Good**  
Johnson Middle School

**Honorable Mention:**  
**Khloe Lovelace**  
Payne Elementary School

## General Manager's Message

DC Water has earned an international reputation for innovation within the water sector. From the Bailey Bioenergy Facility (waste



to energy plant) to our Bloom™ soil amendment product and internationally acclaimed research, we are widely known for our entrepreneurial solutions to some of the challenges commonly faced by water utilities.

Our Fleet staff identified and customized a fleet management software program, called Fleetwave, to meet our unique business needs. The Authority is now able to use Fleetwave in a manner that is getting international attention as a game changer in terms of fleet management and optimizing vehicle performance and lifespan.

While the Fleetwave software is a well-established tool for fleet management, our staff optimized the application for DC Water, creating another example of how DC Water leverages the intellectual and creative abilities of a very skilled staff.

DC Water is fortunate to have such vision and talent throughout the ranks. Thanks to the creativity and hustle of Team Blue, many of our innovations today will yield savings and new efficiencies while also providing new tools and models for utilities across the globe.

Please read more about DC Water's customization of Fleetwave in this issue.

*George S. Hawkins*

Brett Burch, Hardy Middle School

## Access needed for accurate and timely billing

The open space where water meters are found, called meter pits, should remain accessible at all times. Meters should be clear of landscaping, cars and other objects so that our crews can access the meter as needed. Also, our automated meters transmit readings to DC Water several times per day via radio signal, and that signal can be blocked by objects around the meter pit.



When DC Water needs to access the meter pit, for meter replacements, valve shut offs, or other emergencies, crews do their best to limit disturbances to landscaping. They try to gain entry to the meter pits on the side closest to a driveway or sidewalk. This amount of space to access the meter pit should always remain clear. This is the best way to avoid estimated bills and to ensure accurate and timely billing.

## DC Water customizes fleet software for excellence in fleet maintenance and management

When Tim Fitzgerald (Director, Fleet), began at DC Water in 2010, he noticed some gaps in the Authority's Fleet program including the need for timely maintenance and better fuel efficiency. He huddled with staff to assess new technologies and match them against the needs of the Authority.



"As it turns out, there wasn't an off-the-shelf solution available," recalled Fitzgerald. "We identified Fleetwave, by Chevin Fleet Solutions, as a starting point, but needed something that was tailored to our business model." And that is exactly what the team did. The software provides a broad spectrum of data that can be used in numerous ways. For instance, the system captures service codes on vehicles which can help staff more readily address maintenance issues with vehicles. Managers are also able to use a Google Earth interface to see where DC Water vehicles are at all times. DC Water uses the interface to provide faster response times for emergency situations.

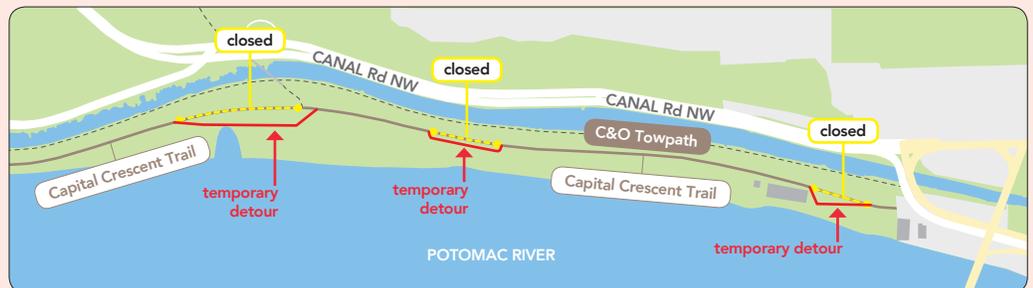
Even before their success with this system, the Fleet team was working hard on adding more environmentally friendly vehicles to the fleet. Since 2013, they've added hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles and now roughly 20 percent of the fleet is highly fuel efficient, with a goal to reach 30 percent in just a few years.

The end result for DC Water and its customers, is more reliability, efficiency and cost-effectiveness.



## Detours on the Capital Crescent Trail

DC Water is repairing sewer structures along the Capital Crescent Trail. Through November, pedestrian and vehicular traffic will be detoured around the construction near the Foundry Branch Tunnel and Washington Canoe Club. The Tunnel and the stairs will remain open between the C&O Canal Towpath and the Trail. Construction will close public sidewalks along Canal Road for approximately 1000 feet. Pedestrians should pay close attention to the traffic control. DC Water is working with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) for any necessary lane closures. Please visit [dcwater.com/foundrybranch](http://dcwater.com/foundrybranch) for more information.



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