

# WHAT'S ON TAP



## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Customers:



I know from our Town Hall Meetings this spring that many of you have questions about water quality. That's not surprising given the attention paid this year – rightly so – to the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan. Many other cities, including DC, continue to grapple with the problem of older lead service lines and lead fixtures and solder in household plumbing. It's important to note that lead sources are different in each property and we urge residents to eliminate lead pipes and plumbing materials in their homes.

The good news is that lead concentrations in the District's drinking water are at historically low levels, thanks to the addition of a food-grade chemical called orthophosphate during the treatment process. Orthophosphate controls corrosion in the pipes that can cause lead to leach into the water.

However, we don't take that for granted. We conduct thousands of tests each year and the results show that your drinking water surpasses the standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. We also issue an annual **Water Quality Report** which is made available to every resident of the city. Look for a notice in the mail soon. I highly recommend you take the time to read the report and to contact us for a free lead monitoring kit to confirm the quality of your water.

*George S. Hawkins*

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## DC Water joins in National Drinking Water Week festivities



It may seem ordinary to turn on the faucet to dispense clean, fresh drinking water. But that water has taken an extraordinary journey to make it to your tap. During the first week in May each year, DC Water and water utilities around the country celebrate this critical service that makes civilization possible. National Drinking Water Week is a reminder of the diligence, expense and hard work that goes into providing communities with safe, reliable tap water.

This year, the Authority provided educational activities to students at Maury Elementary School's S.T.E.M. Festival, partnered with the American Water Works Association to host a reusable bottle giveaway at the Thursday FRESHFARM market near the White House and assisted neighboring utility Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) at its Wonders of

Water Journey for scouting groups. The week's festivities concluded at the Congress Heights Day Festival.

A highlight each year is the gathering of regional water utilities at the Smithsonian Garden Festival, where the groups unite to promote Drinking Water Week with games, trivia, a large water bar dispensing cold DC water through its taps and guest appearances by Wendy the Waterdrop.

Festivities and educational programs aren't confined to one week, though; DC Water sponsors outreach activities year-round. For more information please contact the Office of External Affairs at (202) 787-2200.



## Hurricane season is here

Hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, and typically the peak of hurricane activity occurs between mid-August and October. Residents are urged to protect themselves, their loved ones and their property. Coastal areas are not the only ones affected. Inland areas can experience wind and flood damage. DC Water offers the following precautions to take when the weather service alerts of impending severe weather or, a tropical storm or a hurricane.

- Visit [ready.gov/hurricanes](http://ready.gov/hurricanes)
- Keep a first aid kit handy, including flashlights and extra batteries.
- Keep a battery-powered radio nearby.
- Store at least 1 gallon of water per day for each person and pet. Store at least a 3-day supply for each person and each pet (try to store a 2-week supply if possible).
- Visit [dcwater.com/education/water\\_emergencies.cfm](http://dcwater.com/education/water_emergencies.cfm) to prepare for and respond to water emergencies.
- Visit [hsema.dc.gov/page/emergencypreparedness-hsema](http://hsema.dc.gov/page/emergencypreparedness-hsema) for DC specific info.
- Listen to media reports for water and sewer related information.

Call DC Water's 24-hour Command Center for true water and sewer emergencies at (202) 612-3400.



### SPOTLIGHT ON

## National Environmental Education Foundation and National Public Lands Day

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) was founded in 1990 as an independent non-profit organization complementary to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with a focus on fostering environmental education for all ages and in all segments of the American public. NEEF embraces the idea that environmental protection requires the understanding of the public. People need to spend time experiencing their surroundings and understanding how their behaviors impact the environment. Nature, weather/climate, and health create the strongest connections for people to understand how the environment impacts their lives.



On September 24, 2016, NEEF and others will host the 23rd annual NEEF National Public Lands Day (NPLD), celebrating public lands through outdoor recreational or volunteer activities. This is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. The day's work will help ensure public lands continue to be beautiful places for all to enjoy. On this day the public can access all federal public lands and many state parks for free, as fees are suspended as part of the celebration. Some federal lands are also celebrating the National Park Service centennial. To learn more or to find an event near you, please visit [NEEFusa.org/NPLD](http://NEEFusa.org/NPLD). Please follow them on Twitter [@NEEFusa](https://twitter.com/NEEFusa) and on Facebook at [fb.com/NEEFusa](https://fb.com/NEEFusa) for the latest updates and engage with the community through the hashtag '#NPLD.' This September, celebrate something we all share: our public lands!

## Keep tabs on outdoor water use in summer

During summer months, water usage can be expected to rise some. But if your water use spikes suddenly and you don't know why, you may want to check for leaks or problems in your irrigation system, damage to your hose bibs or to see if an outside spigot was left open. Some DC Water customers have investigated and found that while they thought their irrigation system was on a timer, it in fact was not, so they were watering underground 24 hours a day! To check your usage, go to [dcwater.com](http://dcwater.com) and set up online access to your account. The current system sends readings twice per day, while the next generation of meters will send usage information several times per day.



### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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