

# WHAT'S ON



# TAP?

NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 15 ISSUE 3

## General Manager's Message



Dear Customers,

It is hard to believe it has almost been a full year, but soon it will be time once again for our annual Budget Town Hall Meetings! Each spring, we co-host these meetings in all eight wards of the District with the ward councilmembers, and the response from you, the ratepayers, has been fantastic.

Last year several hundred people attended the meetings and I hope this year we will draw even larger crowds. It is a great opportunity to speak directly with me and DC Water staff and to learn more about our budget and proposed rates for the next fiscal year.

This year's meetings will be held in April. Please check our website at [dcwater.com](http://dcwater.com) in the coming weeks to learn when we will be coming to your ward. I look forward to seeing you there!

George S. Hawkins  
[gmsuggestions@dcwater.com](mailto:gmsuggestions@dcwater.com)

## April is Earth Month

### Anacostia Watershed Society Annual Earth Day Cleanup and Celebration

Saturday, April 5  
Cleanup: 9 a.m.-Noon  
Celebration:  
Noon-2 p.m.

#### Location:

Cleanup: Various sites throughout the Watershed  
Celebration:

RFK Stadium  
Visit [anacostiaws.org](http://anacostiaws.org) for more information.

### Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

Saturday, April 5  
Cleanup: 9 a.m.-Noon  
Contact the Cleanup Coordinator at (202) 973-8203 or visit [fergusonfoundation.org](http://fergusonfoundation.org)

### Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling's 2014 Earth Day, Fun Day Waterfront Cleanup Event

Saturday, April 5  
Cleanup: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Contact the Cleanup Coordinator at (202) 767-4846



## How does DC Water respond to contamination?

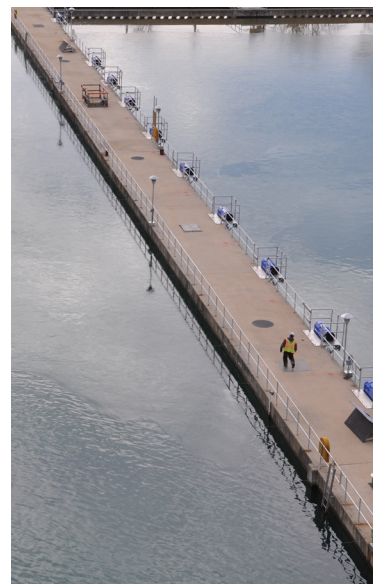
The recent contamination of drinking water in West Virginia is a reminder of how critical it is to protect our water supply, the Potomac River. The chemical spill did not affect the Washington area, and the District's water remains safe to drink. DC Water and regional water utilities work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and government regulators to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

In the event of contamination, the region implements an emergency response plan and warning system based on monitoring along the river and at drinking water treatment plants. The Washington Aqueduct is the facility that collects water from the Potomac and treats the District's drinking water. The Aqueduct and other facilities in the region rely on modeling systems that track and forecast

the movement of contaminants.

The Washington Aqueduct can increase water storage before contaminants reach the treatment plant and water intakes can be shut off until the water is safe to use.

DC Water participates in regular training exercises to test the region's ability to coordinate



The Washington Aqueduct

emergency response efforts. The public notification process includes advisories that are issued to protect public health and inform customers of water quality issues.

DC Water is committed to working with

all of the River's users to prevent contamination of our drinking water supplies, and we are continuously working to update and improve our regional response system. For information about what to do during a water service emergency, visit [dcwater.com/education/water\\_emergencies.cfm](http://dcwater.com/education/water_emergencies.cfm).

## Fix a leak and save some green



Did you know that ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day? That adds up on the water bill. Common types of leaks include worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets and leaking valves.

Nationwide, more than one trillion gallons of water will leak from homes each year. To help curb this enormous loss, residents are urged to check their plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems during Fix a Leak Week March 17 to 23.

A leaking toilet wastes a gallon per minute, or 1,440 gallons per day, costing more than \$400 on a monthly water bill. (To learn more, watch this video: [bit.ly/toiletvideo](http://bit.ly/toiletvideo).)

Residents can also conserve water by installing EPA's WaterSense® labeled fixtures and other low flow devices. For more information, please visit: [epa.gov/watersense/pubs/fixleak.html](http://epa.gov/watersense/pubs/fixleak.html)

## Dial before you dig!

It's been a cold winter and you may want to get a jump on your spring plantings. Be sure to call



Miss Utility at 811 or visit [missutility.net](http://missutility.net) at least 48 hours before you dig in your yard to have your utilities marked. Miss Utility is a one-call notification system for Maryland and District homeowners and can help prevent damaged utility lines or pipes, a disruption of services or personal injury.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION



The Alice Ferguson Foundation has a 60 year history of connecting people to the natural world, teaching sustainable agricultural practices and the cultural heritage of the local watershed through education, stewardship and advocacy. It is a Maryland-based organization that contributes to the health of the Potomac River and engages youth and adults in education programs and outreach activities, as well as field studies to help them better appreciate and understand the environment.

One such initiative mirrors DC Water's mission as an environmental steward. While DC Water cleanses the wastewater for an entire region, putting back into the Potomac water that is cleaner than the river itself, The Alice Ferguson Foundation cleans the Potomac through its Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative, which seeks to create a lasting reduction of litter and waste in the Potomac watershed by:

- Challenging regional leaders to work collaboratively
- Bringing together key stakeholders to research and explore alternative, cost-effective solutions that have long term impact
- Improving general education and awareness in order to shift individual behaviors

The Trash Initiative addresses the trash problem comprehensively by:

1. **Educating the public** with the Regional Litter Prevention Campaign

to inspire citizens and businesses to change littering behavior and take action towards a trash free watershed.

2. **Working with regional law enforcement agencies**, AFF hosts Litter Enforcement Month every April to raise awareness of littering, illegal dumping and related crimes.
  3. **Improving economic incentives** for residents for waste reduction, recycling, and composting to boost responsible waste management and prevent litter.
  4. **Supporting source reduction policies**, effective implementation of current policies, and sufficient funding for and effective implementation of, waste management programs at the local, state, and federal levels.
  5. **Ensuring regulation** of trash in waterways under the provisions of the Clean Water Act by creating a measurable, tangible limit to the amount of trash allowed in a body of water through stormwater permits and TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load requirements).
- To learn more about the Alice Ferguson Foundation, please visit [ferguson-foundation.org](http://ferguson-foundation.org) or call (202) 973-8206.



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**  
George S. Hawkins, General Manager

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