

# WHAT'S ON



# TAP?

NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 14 ISSUE 4

## General Manager's Message: Not Too Late for Your Feedback



My team and I visited every ward in the District again this year at the town hall meetings DC Water co-sponsored with members of the DC Council. I want to thank you for a great turnout and your excellent questions. It's important to us that we spend time in each ward, hearing

your concerns and informing you of our plans.

The next step as the Board of Directors considers the proposed rates for your water and sewer service is a public hearing Wednesday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 777 North Capitol Street, NE. If you are unable to make the hearing or are reading these words after it took place, the Board would still like to hear from you.

Please submit your comments to:

**DC Water**  
**Office of the Board Secretary**  
**5000 Overlook Avenue, SW**  
**Washington, DC 20032**

You can also send your comments on our proposed rates, or anything else, to me at the email address below.

George S. Hawkins  
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com

## Tap Water Disinfectant Returns to Chloramine

Beginning April 29, the Washington Aqueduct will resume using chloramines for drinking water disinfection. Chloramine (chlorine plus ammonia) is a common disinfectant for drinking water systems and is used most of the year in the District, providing long-lasting protection as water flows through DC's distribution system to your tap.

see **CHLORAMINE** continued on back

## Tunnel Boring Machine Ready to Go

As part of the Clean Rivers Project, DC Water is building a system of tunnels to capture, store and convey combined sewage during intense rainstorms. To build these



tunnels, massive tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are required to bore through the earth more than 100 ft below the surface. The first and largest of these TBMs arrived at Blue Plains and is being lowered, in pieces, into a shaft 75 ft diameter and 125 ft deep and assembled for its journey. On April 9, District of Columbia Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, EPA Administrator Shawn M. Garvin, DC Water Board Chair Allen Y. Lew and DC Water's General Manager George S. Hawkins unveiled the name and "christened" it with DC tap water. The christening is customary for tunnel boring machines. "Lady Bird" is one of several TBMs that will construct the tunnels to provide relief for the Anacostia River.

## Green Infrastructure Challenge to Green DC and Improve Water Quality

DC Water launched a Green Infrastructure Challenge that will help the Authority test innovative approaches using green infrastructure—green roofs, rain gardens, rain barrels, pervious pavements and other



natural means—to capture stormwater before it can enter the storm or sewer system. DC Water invites qualified firms and organizations to submit their proposals to compete for awards totaling \$1 million towards design and construction. The Challenge is an element of DC Water's Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project to explore green alternatives for reducing combined sewer overflows. Visit [dcwater.com/greenchallenge](http://dcwater.com/greenchallenge) for more information.

## Chloramine *continued*

Customers who take special precautions to remove chlorine from tap water, such as dialysis centers, medical facilities and aquatic pet owners, should take the appropriate precautions to remove chloramines.

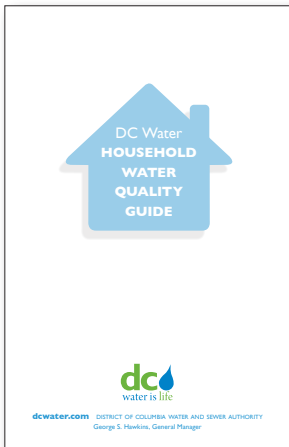
From March 18 to April 29, 2013, the disinfectant used for drinking water treatment was temporarily switched to chlorine. The Washington Aqueduct is the organization responsible for treating drinking water in the District. Water is routinely monitored throughout the city to ensure disinfection levels meet safe target levels. To view monthly water quality results, visit [dcwater.com/testresults](http://dcwater.com/testresults). For more information, please contact the Drinking Water Division at (202) 612-3440.

## National Drinking Water Week May 5-11, 2013

Though it may not be top of mind, most people in the District use tap water every day. Whether brushing their teeth, washing clothes, taking a shower, watering the lawn or using the restroom, DC tap water figures into their normal routine. Every faucet and fountain in the District relies on DC Water to deliver more than 106 million gallons of water each day. Countless water

professionals and processes are involved as water is treated, tested and delivered across more than 1,300 miles of the distribution system to your tap. The Washington Aqueduct is responsible for drinking water treatment in the District and some Virginia localities. DC Water purchases water from the Washington Aqueduct and ensures high quality water is delivered to more than 600,000 residents.

Ensuring tap water quality is a shared responsibility of DC Water and individual residents. Check out DC Water's Household Water Quality Guide. To view the guide, visit [dcwater.com/homeguide](http://dcwater.com/homeguide).



## Hydrants are for Fighting Fires



Fire hydrants are a very important part of the District's fire protection. They are specifically made for use by firefighters to save property, homes and people from fires.

When the summer heats up, some people are tempted to open a hydrant, but this can be dangerous. For one, the water comes out with great force—it can knock a person over or cause injury, especially to children. A hydrant can be damaged by opening it without the proper tools.

Opening a hydrant releases more than 1,800 gallons of water per minute, lowering water pressure in the area, which can also hinder firefighting. Finally, all that water on the streets can wreak havoc with traffic and put the people playing in the water in harm's way.

There are plenty of other ways to stay cool. Go to an air conditioned library, theater, museum or mall. Take a dip in the pool, or request DC Water's services for your large gathering (see article below).

Save yourself from harm and your neighbors from danger. Make this summer a safe one!

## DC Tap Water Can be Cool

DC Water provides several types of water facilities for community events with 100 or more participants.

The **Misting Tent** is 10 feet by 10 feet, with a constant cool, refreshing mist and shade from the sun. The **Cooling Station** has coolers filled with iced tap water and the **Mobile Brita Hydration Stations** provide filtered tap water to fill cups and water bottles.

To request any of these options for your large community event, please make your request (April through September) online at [dcwater.com/about/tent\\_request\\_form.cfm](http://dcwater.com/about/tent_request_form.cfm) or call (202) 787-2200 for more information.

