

General Manager's Message:



The last thing a water utility wants to do is issue a boil water alert, but we won't hesitate to do it to protect the health and safety of

our customers.

That's what happened in early March when internal power circuitry failed at the Fort Reno pump station. With the pumps down, pressure in the pipes dropped, raising a concern that outside contaminants could get in the drinking water.

Out of an abundance of caution we immediately issued a boil water alert for the impacted area, which included more than 1,000 properties. Staff and volunteers went door to door to notify customers while, behind the scenes, maintenance crews quickly fixed the electrical problem and restored service. The alert was lifted once water quality tests were completed.

The incident shed light on the dire need to invest in our aging infrastructure, but the response by our employees buoyed me because it showed great teamwork and coordination, and a genuine concern for the well-being of our customers.



George Hawkins
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com

New Visitor Center opens at Blue Plains



DC Water recently opened an environmentally friendly Visitor Center and warehouse building at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. The 30,000 square foot building is the first stop for more than 1,000 visitors who tour the plant each year. It houses an educational classroom, security, the Office of External Affairs' outreach team and a new warehouse. The modern design incorporates recycled materials, plant life and a large wall display that explains water and wastewater processes.

"DC Water built this new building to LEED Silver certification standards," said General Manager Hawkins. "It serves as a model for stormwater runoff reduction and energy efficiency."

For runoff reduction, the green roof will drain into vegetative swales along the back of the building, where it will be treated by plant life selected for this purpose. Pervious pavement reduces the runoff and resurfaced parking lot incorporates new landscaping islands and planting

strips to reduce the heat island effect.

For energy efficiency, multiple skylights use natural daylight to supplement high efficiency LED lighting fixtures, while a solar array roof above the guardhouse aims to save on electricity. Low-flow plumbing fixtures also conserve water.

Additional green features:

- Building materials with high recycled and recyclable content were used, including concrete, masonry, gypsum board, tile, and carpet.
- All wood products are made from FSC Certified lumber.
- Construction waste management: 88% of waste diverted from landfills.
- Indoor air quality management.
- Sustainable furniture.
- Bicycle storage and changing rooms to accommodate bicycle commuters.

More information about the new facility can be found at: dcwater.com/visitorcenter

To schedule a tour of the Blue Plains facility, please visit: dcwater.com/about/tours.cfm

Hydrants are for fighting fires

Fire hydrants are specifically made for use by firefighters and are an important part of the District's fire protection.

There are more than 9,300 hydrants in DC.

When the summer heats up, people looking to cool off may be 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.

Opening a hydrant releases more than 1,800 gallons of water per minute, lowering water pressure in the area, causing nearby customers to have low water pressure in their homes and businesses. It also hinders



firefighting. The hydrant can be damaged when opened without the proper tools. Finally, all that water on the streets can wreak havoc with

traffic and put the people in harm's way.

There are plenty of ways to stay cool. Try visiting an air conditioned library, theater, museum or mall or request

DC Water's services for your large gathering at: dcwater.com/mistingtent.

In severe heat and humidity (when the heat index is over 95) visit one of DC's Cooling Centers.

Please make this summer a safe one!

Spotlight on: DC Appleseed

Founded in 1994 by a group of public-spirited lawyers, DC Appleseed is a nonprofit organization dedicated to solving problems that affect the daily lives of those who live and work in the National Capital area. For the past 15 years, DC Appleseed has worked with volunteer attorneys, business leaders, and community experts to recommend effective policies for restoring the Anacostia River. The Anacostia is a slow-moving, shallow and impaired river and DC Appleseed aims to help clean it up and transform the Anacostia into a recreational centerpiece of the nation's capital.

During this time, DC Appleseed has successfully advocated for numerous public initiatives to improve the river including:

- Environmental building standards to keep pollution out of the Anacostia as development occurs along its banks.
- A discount program for DC Water ratepayers who use green practices to reduce stormwater runoff.
- A plan to clean up contaminated sediment on the river's bottom.
- DC Appleseed believes that the Anacostia River's clean-up can spur neighborhood investment and create jobs—serving as a national model for revitalizing urban rivers.

DC Appleseed is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. To learn more about DC Appleseed please call 202-289-8007 or visit www.dcappleseed.org

DC Water Celebrates National Drinking Water Week May 4 to 9, 2014



For more than 30 years, public water systems around the country have celebrated National Drinking Water Week to highlight the value of safe and reliable tap water. When you fill a glass with drinking water in the District, it has travelled through part of a 1,300-mile pipe system after

leaving one of eight reservoirs, where it was stored after the Washington Aqueduct collected and treated the water from the Potomac River. The water is tested at numerous points in the distribution system by an experienced team of water quality technicians. Thirty six thousand valves, more than 9,300 fire hydrants and hundreds of DC Water employees work every day to maintain our drinking water system. Please join us in recognizing the importance of drinking water in the National Capital Region and raise a glass of tap water to celebrate National Drinking Water Week.



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

Customer Service Department 810 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002 | DCWATER.COM



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