

WHAT'S ON



TAP?

NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 12 ISSUE 8

General Manager's Message: Meet the Board



Dear Customers,

You see my picture in every issue of *What's On Tap*, as the public face and chief executive of DC Water. But this month, I'd like you to meet some other folks who are also very much in charge.

DC Water is an independent agency of the District Government, governed by a Board of Directors instead of directly by the Mayor. The Board consists of 11 principal members and 11 alternates, representing the District, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland, and Fairfax County in Virginia. The Chairman, who must by law be a District resident, is William M. Walker. The members serve four-year terms.

The members of this body set DC Water's policy and annual budget, and decide on the rates that you pay for the services we provide you. In short, they have a big role in our work and in your lives. I invite you to learn more and watch them in action.

Board meetings are open to the public and take place the first Thursday of every month, except in August. You'll find more details on the Board and its work at dcwater.com/theboard.

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Be Water Wise DC Launches!

DC Water joins the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) to launch *Be Water Wise DC*, an innovative program to engage K-12 students in projects about protecting and conserving local water resources.



Students at 15 DC schools will participate in this program during the 2011-2012 school year. In the fall, they will conduct an

assessment of their schools, including water use and stormwater management throughout the buildings and grounds. They will then

implement projects to improve water management at their schools and present these projects to

city officials next spring.

To learn more about this exciting educational program, visit eeweeek.org/be_water_wise.

Joint Utility Discount Day (JUDD) September 27

Thousands of District residents attend JUDD every year to apply for utility discount programs. For more than a decade, DC Water has joined with the District Department of the Environment (DDOE), Washington Gas, PEPCO, Verizon and NationsLine to sponsor the event and help customers apply. Details for this year's event:



**Tuesday, September 27, 2011
8 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Walter E. Washington
Convention Center**

For more information, please call DDOE at 202-673-6700.

Blue Plains Houses Renowned Research Arm



for planning and operations, as staff in the Wastewater Treatment Department are looking five to ten years into the future to enhance decision making in the policy, science and technology environments.

Before Blue Plains adopts a new technology, research is conducted to understand the science of future policy issues, and soon thereafter a new technology is developed to address this emerging policy. Thus, DC Water is able to deploy cutting-edge technology with confidence. And the rest of the world knows it. Every week, Blue Plains is the destination of delegations from around the world, who seek information and guidance from the experts.

More than 75 candidates have done their thesis work at Blue Plains—many now hold respected positions in the water sector. These students come from respected universities from within the DC region and from around the world.

There's an aspect of Blue Plains that is both unique and fascinating. The wastewater treatment plant houses a research and technology arm that has received many awards from respected professional agencies in the water sector, including the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, American Academy of Environmental Engineers and the Water Environment Federation. Each year, the engineers at Blue Plains enlist up to a dozen doctoral and master's degree candidates who conduct research and determine solutions for real-life problems for DC Water.

This research is the basis

For more information, visit dcwater.com.

Para informar emergencias del aguas residuales, llama (202) 612-3400.

Report emergencies 24 hours a day!

To report improper use of hydrants, clogged catch basins, water main leaks, or suspected sewer backups: call (202) 612-3400.

What Can You Find on dcwater.com?

There are more reasons than ever to visit dcwater.com. On DC Water's website you can pay your bill, look for a job, bid on a contract, learn about the environment or find out what's being repaired and how long that will take.

You can also sign up for alerts that will tell you if your water usage increases dramatically over several days—often this is the first



sign of a leak or plumbing problem. There's also a calendar on the homepage of upcoming meetings and events. Don't forget DC Water is also on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr and LinkedIn.

Did You Know?

Did you know that tap water is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, while bottled water is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration? Tap water is held to more stringent regulations than bottled water, and tap water suppliers must report on the source of water as well as water quality results. Bottled water suppliers are not required to do either.

In the District, tap water is sourced and treated by the Washington Aqueduct (WA), a wholesale provider to the region. The WA performs water



quality monitoring in its laboratories. In addition, DC Water collects more than 10,000 samples from across the District and conducts over 30,000 water quality tests per year. DC Water also has two mobile water quality vans that perform water testing, and has established an added testing protocol for schools and daycare centers.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
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