

WHAT'S ON

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water is life

TAP?

NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS | VOL. 15 ISSUE 8

General Manager's Message



To raise capital for DC Water's Clean Rivers Project, a mandated project to reduce combined sewer overflows, the Authority went to the bond market in early July with a first-

of-its-kind bond offering.

The 100-year final maturity is a first for the water/wastewater sector, and is significant for ratepayers. Since the tunnel system will be constructed to last more than 100 years, and several generations will be using it, it makes sense that it shouldn't all be paid for by the current customers. A 100-year maturity means that the cost will be borne more fairly by the generations who get use from it. It also speaks to the confidence the financial market has in DC Water's strength and long-term viability.

This was the first green bond offering in the U.S. to be certified by a third party for the environmentally beneficial project the sale is funding. These benefits include remediating CSOs, promoting climate resilience through flood mitigation and improving quality of life on the waterfront. This attracted a new investor group of socially responsible investors to DC Water bonds.

DC Water sold \$350 million in bonds at 4.81 percent interest in less than a day.

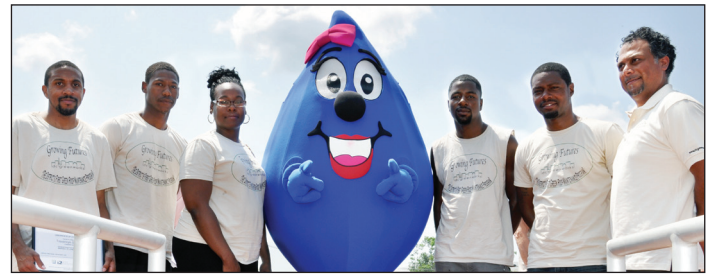
George S. Hawkins
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DC Water celebrates green infrastructure and green job training program for local residents

On July 23, DC Water General Manager George S. Hawkins, Ward 3 DC Councilmember Mary Cheh, DC Greenworks' Program Director Neil Qusba and other DC leaders celebrated

Green Infrastructure (GI) projects installed at DC Water facilities. The event took place atop DC Water's Ft. Reno Reservoir, where a new one-acre greenroof tops the covered reservoir. The site has also been used for a unique job training program in GI maintenance for local residents. Called *Growing Futures*, the training program prepares its graduates for jobs maintaining green projects.

General Manager Hawkins commented, "*Growing Futures* is providing a sustainable career path for local residents while also keeping green infrastructure working properly to infiltrate stormwater, an important function in keeping our waterways healthy while providing additional environmental benefits."



Graduates of the *Growing Futures* program celebrate with Wendy the Waterdrop.

DC Water provided funding to DC Greenworks to create the *Growing Futures* Program, which provided local residents training including planting and weeding, irrigation system operation, pest and invasive species control and plant identification.

In addition to the Ft. Reno Reservoir greenroof, DC Water retrofitted several water and sewer facilities.

DC Water is also collaborating with neighboring Alice Deal Middle School to provide educational materials for a curriculum in stormwater management.

For more information about *Growing Futures* or the collaboration with Alice Deal Middle School, please visit dcwater.com/giatdcwater.

Free water education programs for local students

DC Water offers a variety of educational opportunities to students attending schools in the District. Our water education program is designed to provide information about the role water plays in our daily lives, our drinking water supply, and ways to protect and conserve our water resources.

Environmental lessons are free and suitable for students in kindergarten through high school. Each lesson features hands-on activities and interactive presentations. All lessons can be customized for any grade level, class size or time schedule. To schedule a presentation, please send an email request

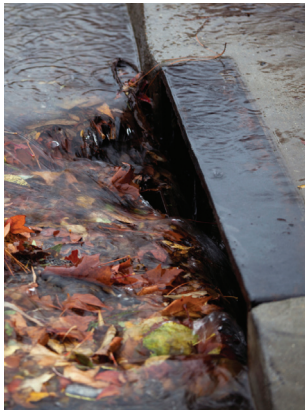
see **EDUCATION** continued on back

Please keep leaves out of catch basins

Catch basins (also known as storm drains) are often overlooked, but they serve an important purpose. They are usually located within a curb and are a vital part of flood control, allowing water to quickly drain from the streets. If these basins get clogged by falling leaves, trash or other debris, flooding may result.

Many catch basins in the District are connected to the storm sewers, which usually drain directly into area waterways. Others connect to combined sewers and, if clogged, may cause sewer backups or overflows in homes or streets.

Help keep catch basins clear by properly collecting and disposing of fallen leaves. You can use them as mulch to reduce weeds, conserve moisture and moderate soil temperatures in your garden or flower beds. Or you can bag them up for recycling. Most years, the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) collects bagged leaves from the curbside treebox space to be composted or otherwise recycled. Please visit dpw.dc.gov or call (202) 645-8245 for more information.



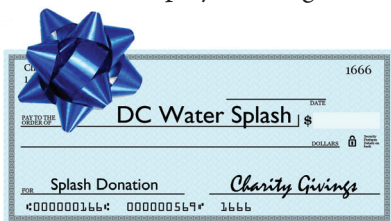
Help a family in need—give to SPLASH

As the year winds to a close, many people think about giving to those in need. At DC Water, we encourage gifts to SPLASH (Serving People by Lending a Supportive Hand) to help families maintain their most critical of all services—water and sewer. SPLASH is an emergency fund to help those struck with an immediate, temporary need and who would otherwise face water service shut off.

The good news is that giving is easy. Customers can use the Round Up feature when they pay their bill by check through the mail to round up to the next nearest dollar, or to add \$1.00 or \$2.00. Or customers can add any amount above their bill. Non-customers can donate by making a check payable to DC Water SPLASH program and mailing it to 810 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

DC Water's Customer Assistance Plan offers qualifying customers a discount on their water bill. Contact the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) at (202) 535-2600 to apply.

DC Water employees also give to the program directly through payroll deduction. In 2013 alone, employees donated nearly \$20,000 to SPLASH. Please join us in helping District families this holiday season.



Spotlight on Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay



The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is committed to the health of the land, waters, and residents of the Chesapeake Bay. From stormwater in our cities to the forests and farms many miles upstream, how we use the land affects the quality of the Bay and its rivers.

Among its initiatives, the Alliance protects the Chesapeake Bay watershed with trash clean-ups, citizen educational activities and stormwater management practices. The group works with landowners and municipalities to sustain healthy forests, install functional landscapes that contribute to stormwater reduction, and increase public awareness and participation in restoration and pollution prevention.

Within the District of Columbia, the RiverSmart Homes Program offers an innovative approach aimed at reducing stormwater runoff on residential properties. Through grants provided by the District Department of the Environment, the Alliance helps homeowners install rain gardens, BayScape gardens, shade trees or rain barrels, and replace impervious surfaces with pervious ones. Homeowners can receive a \$1,200 grant credit for these projects. The RiverSmart program involves partnerships among citizens, businesses, non-profits, and government to successfully reduce stormwater runoff, improve local water quality, increase awareness about local stormwater challenges, and encourage community participation in addressing these challenges. To date, over 5,000 homeowners have participated.



Education *continued*

to externalaffairs@dcwater.com.

In addition, teachers and students are invited to tour Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant, where DC Water recovers a variety of resources from the region's wastewater. Visitors get an up-close look at the science, technology and innovation behind this massive facility.

All tours are free and available to students grades 6 through college. DC Water can accommodate tour groups of up to 25 people at one time. For tour availability, please visit www.dewater.com/about/tour_request_form.cfm.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
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