

WHAT'S ON TAP



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Family Water Festival

More than 500 residents and visitors enjoyed DC Water's first Family Water Festival, a free, outdoor family-friendly celebration to commemorate the near-completion of the First Street Tunnel Project. It was hosted at the historic and elegant Bryant Street Water Pumping Station, with a special invitation to Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park residents whose neighborhoods have been impacted by persistent flooding conditions, and more recently construction of the tunnel as a medium-term solution to help address this issue.

DC Water provided interactive games and learning stations aimed to educate children and adults about water resources and promote environmental stewardship. In partnership with DC Department of Parks and Recreation, the festival featured an array of popular outdoor games and activities for children, including Skate Mobile, Fun Wagon and life-sized checkers and chess games. A number of food vendors and entertainment were also present. Visitors toured the Bryant Street Pumping Station and learned how the water distribution system in Washington, D.C. functions. They were able to see relics from the 19th and 20th century water system in the pump station's small-scale museum. Here, old fountains, hydrants and water mains, some of which are more than 100 years old, are available to view and touch.

DC Water participates in numerous street festivals and outreach events, and hosts tours of its facilities. The Family Water Festival is an extension of DC Water's year-round outreach and education program. Contact the Office of External Affairs at (202) 787-2200 for more information.

DC Water launches DC Water Works

DC Water unveiled its new, comprehensive local jobs program with a goal to increase the number of local residents hired by DC Water contractors. The program includes a job referral process where DC Water will inquire with local agencies for "ready to work" employees for contractor jobs. DC Water will also work with District agencies for skills training and placement programs to prepare District residents for the types of jobs that are frequently sought after on DC Water projects.



DC Water Works will be the "first source" for referral of candidates for all new jobs covered under this program. The expectation is to identify "ready to employ" individuals to meet the immediate hiring needs of DC Water's contractors. DC Water also will require that contractors with a large DC Water contract participate in an apprenticeship program registered with its home State Apprenticeship Agency or the District of Columbia Apprenticeship Registration Agency, and maintain the District's 3:1 journeyman to apprenticeship ratio.

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GM'S MESSAGE

Dear Customers:

This issue of *What's on Tap* describes the launch of our DC Water Works program, a local jobs initiative on which we embarked several years ago to require contractors with large projects to hire locally when possible, with a goal of 51 percent local hires.



Over the last several years, we sought input from the community and set out to build the program. In all, we held more than 25 stakeholder meetings to identify the needs of the community and formulate the parameters of this program. The project itself was a bit of trial and error as we learned to partner with third party organizations whose primary focus is job placement and skills training.

Coinciding with this development, we also partnered with the Water Environment Federation to develop a National Green Infrastructure Certification Program. To be housed within the WEF Stormwater Institute, this program will certify individuals who install, inspect, and maintain green infrastructure systems and is designed for non-college-graduates. The curriculum has been developed and the first participants are enrolling this fall, with a projected graduation in January 2017. I am pleased that DC Water is able to find innovative ways to train and hire locally and we look forward to more progress on this front. This is parallel to our conviction that we should do our best to return benefits to the communities and ratepayers that pay for and support our services.

George S. Hawkins

George S. Hawkins
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com



