

Learn how your water utility is serving you and your community.

The Pipeline



SA Service Authority
Exceptional Water Service

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Models of Creativity

The Service Authority's Model Water Tower Competition for area middle schoolers had a festive feel this year thanks to the holiday-themed winning entry.

The first-place duo of St Francis of Assisi School student Jerry Boasmanboon and his neighbor Renu Nguyen-Rawoor of Graham Park Middle School created a functional water tower that combined elements of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Entries were rated on structural, hydraulic and cost efficiency as well as design ingenuity.

Second place went to Maddi Waltsak of Antietam Elementary School, while third went to the team of Kylie Hayes, Erin Fortson, Laurie Kouevi, Stella Kouevi and Alyssa Cassel of Woodbridge Middle School. This year's competition, which featured 10 teams, also welcomed fifth graders enrolled in Prince William County Schools' Students Involved in Gifted Needs in Education Today (SIGNET) program.

An Eye on Underground Infrastructure

Responsible maintenance of the Service Authority's 1,200 miles of sanitary sewer mains starts with a rigorous video inspection program.

Last November, the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Department finished a systematic, closed-circuit television (CCTV) inspection of all its sewer lines – a process that took eight years to complete. Once the Service Authority inspects a section of pipe, the Operations & Maintenance Division determines what maintenance, if any, is needed to help preserve its lifespan.

Proactive sewer maintenance, like flushing and lining of aging lines, has helped lower the cost of cleaning wastewater at treatment facilities.

“Having an I&I program is essential, in part, because of how much wastewater treatment costs,” said I&I Manager Rob Wilson. “We’d rather prevent problems early than have to fix them later.”



You Ask, We Answer



Sometimes, I see black specks in my water. What are they?

The most common cause of black specks in tap water is the deterioration of rubber materials used in your plumbing from contact with the chlorine in the water. If the specks do not smudge between your fingers, however, it is likely sediment, manganese or iron. If you see any of these three substances in your water, contact Customer Service at (703) 335-7950 so we can flush the distribution mains in your area to help clear the lines.

Pipeline Pal!

Meet Our Winter 2019 Pipeline Pal!

We asked, "What does water mean to you?"

Dumfries resident Ricki Guyant says, "Water means life and opportunity! Our health is dependent on access to clean, safe drinking water – a luxury that many in our world take for granted."



Remove snow from around fire hydrants on your street. You will not only be a good neighbor, but you could also help save lives by making it easier for firefighters to access hydrants during an emergency.



Customer Tip

Getting to Know . . .

Brian Sipes
Deputy Finance Director



Why did you choose to work at the Service Authority?

The one thing that really sold me was the culture of learning. When they hired me, they explained how the organization is committed to employees doing their jobs with excellence.

What is the most challenging thing about working for the Service Authority?

Learning all about the water and wastewater industry, as well as the policies, processes and terminology that come with that.

What do you do for fun in your spare time?

I love listening to the old radio shows like *Dragnet* and *Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar*. I started listening to them in my 20s when NPR had a show called *Old Time Radio Classics*.

What is your dream vacation destination and why?

My wife and I have designs on a European trip when our kids are out of the house. We would love to go to Madrid.

Did you know?

Brian has a passion for barbecuing and often cooks for the youth group at the church he attends in Woodbridge.



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