

## STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP



### Source Water Protection: Be 'Winter Salt Smart' This Winter

#### What's the problem?

In the winter, salt keeps us safe while we are on the move, but it also leads to higher levels of salt in the region's drinking water supply, including the Potomac River and Occoquan Reservoir.

#### What is winter salt?

Winter salt is rock salt (sodium chloride) or ice melt (a blend of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, and other salts). These materials are used in the winter to prevent the icing of sidewalks, parking lots, and roadways.

#### Why is increased salt in the drinking water supply a problem for water utilities?

Salt cannot be removed via traditional drinking water and wastewater treatment processes. It can also be corrosive to plumbing and may have health impacts for those on low-sodium diets.

#### What can I do to help?

- Shovel early. Remove snow from pavements before it turns to ice.
- Use less salt. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt should be enough for a 20-foot driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- Spread salt evenly. Try to not distribute in clumps.
- Watch the temps. When it is colder than 15°F, do not apply winter salt; it will not work.

To learn more, visit: [bit.ly/WinterSaltFW](https://bit.ly/WinterSaltFW) or use the QR code.



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#### Proposed Changes to the Commodity Rate

### Important Rate Information for 2023

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022, the Fairfax Water Board will hold a public hearing on proposed revisions to the schedule of rates, fees, and charges. Proposed revisions include a change in the commodity charge from \$3.46 to \$3.65 per 1,000 gallons, effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2023. See page 2 for a list of some of the proposed changes.

The public hearing will be held at Fairfax Water's main office at 8570 Executive Park Avenue in Fairfax. Visit [fairfaxwater.org/rates](https://fairfaxwater.org/rates) for a copy of the proposed changes and directions to the main office. To speak at the hearing or to obtain a hard copy of the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges, call 703-698-5600, TTY 711.

Even with this increase, Fairfax Water's commodity rates will remain among the lowest in the Washington metropolitan region. The chart on page 2 compares regional utilities based on current commodity rates and service charges.

(Continued on page 2)

# Important Rate Information for 2023

The following tables show some of the proposed revisions to Fairfax Water's rates, fees, and charges. If approved, the revisions will be effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2023. Visit [fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://fairfaxwater.org/rates) for a complete list of the proposed revisions.

Charge	Description of Rate, Fee, or Charge	Current	Proposed
Commodity Charge	The charge per 1,000 gallons of water used in the previous three months.	\$3.46*	\$3.65*
Quarterly Billing Service Charge	Based on meter size, it offsets the cost of meter reading, repair and replacement, service repairs, billing, collecting, accounting, etc.	\$14.95**	\$14.95**
Peak Use Charge	The charge per 1,000 gallons of water applied to established accounts during billing periods from June through November for water consumption that is 1.3 times the winter quarter consumption or 6,000 gallons above the winter quarter consumption, whichever is greater.	\$3.85*	\$4.00*
Turn Off/Turn On Charge	Charge to restore water service that has been disconnected due to nonpayment or noncompliance; must be paid before water service can be restored.	\$50.00	\$53.00

\* Fees for the use of Fairfax Water fire hydrants would also change to include the proposed increase in the commodity charge and peak use charge.  
 \*\* Charges reflect fees associated with standard 5/8 inch residential meter. Charges for larger residential and commercial meters are proposed to increase and are reflected in the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges, available on our website at [www.fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates).

New Connection Charges	Description of Rate, Fee, or Charge	Current	Proposed
Availability Charge	For service to be furnished through each new separate service connection.	\$4,510	\$4,640
Local Facilities Charge	For each new service connection to an existing water main.	\$19,400	\$22,090
Service Connection Charge	For each new service connection and meter installation prior to the approval of the application.	\$1,480	\$1,790

## Comparison of Local Water Rates

This comparison is based on rates as of July 1, 2022, and on 18,000 gallons of residential water use by an established customer over a three-month winter period. The amount shown for each jurisdiction/utility includes the service charge and the commodity charge, which is the rate charged for a certain number of gallons.

Jurisdiction/Utility	Quarterly Water Charge
Town of Leesburg, VA (outside town limits)	\$211.61
City of Manassas Park, VA	\$205.50
Town of Leesburg, VA (inside town limits)	\$161.36
DC Water	\$160.86
City of Rockville, MD	\$157.68
Virginia-American Water Company (Prince William County, VA) *	\$154.45
City of Bowie, MD	\$145.21
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (Montgomery/Prince George's counties, MD)	\$136.91
Virginia-American Water Company (City of Alexandria, VA) *	\$127.07
Town of Vienna, VA	\$124.56
Arlington County, VA	\$100.11
City of Manassas, VA	\$91.80
Loudoun Water	\$87.70
Prince William County Service Authority	\$82.65
<b>Fairfax Water</b>	<b>\$77.23</b>
Town of Herndon, VA	\$70.12

\*Interim rates effective June 1, 2022 under review of State Corporation Commission (SCC).

Fairfax Water does not provide your sewer service, but we do assist Fairfax County and the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax with sewer billing. This is a cost-saving measure and a convenience for our customers. Your sewer rates and associated billing methodology are established by your sewer service provider. Rates are a combination of a base charge and usage. They may also include taxes and/or other fees. Visit [fairfaxwater.org/sewer-charges](http://fairfaxwater.org/sewer-charges) to learn more.

# Fairfax County Students Win First Place in the 'One Water' Regional Art Contest!

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments joined regional water utilities to hold an art contest with the theme of protecting our source water. The Fairfax County finalists in each division went on to win at the regional level as well!

**Congratulations, Lena and Ashley, on your beautiful and meaningful works of art!**



"A Future Yet to Come"  
by Lena S., Herndon, VA



"The Tiny Tired Protectors"  
by Ashley G., Falls Church, VA

## Fairfax Water Online Customer Portal: View Your Water Account 24/7/365!



Fairfax Water's self-service customer portal is a web-based platform that provides you with a convenient, single access point to account information that you can use on your desktop or mobile device via [fwcustomer.org](http://fwcustomer.org) or our mobile app.

Once registered, you can conduct transactions (such as making payments, viewing bills, checking quarterly usage, and sending online messages) at your convenience.



Visit [fwcustomer.org](http://fwcustomer.org) or scan the QR code to jump to the portal!





## Fairfax Water Bids Farewell to Frederick P. Griffith Jr., a Founding Leader of the Utility

### We Want To Know . . .

If you have comments or suggestions about the newsletter, please send an email to [pr@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:pr@fairfaxwater.org), call us at 703-289-6291, or write to us at this address:

Straight From the Tap Editor  
Fairfax Water  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

### Important Numbers

#### Fairfax Water Services

Info on water service and billing:

703-698-5800

After hours/emergencies:

703-698-5613

To report a water main break:

703-698-5613 or email

[watermainbreak@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:watermainbreak@fairfaxwater.org)

All other Fairfax Water departments:

703-698-5600

#### Sewer Services

##### Fairfax County

Department of Public Works Wastewater

Trouble Response Center:

703-323-1211

[fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater)

##### City of Falls Church

Department of Public Works:

703-248-5350

[fallschurchva.gov](http://fallschurchva.gov)

##### City of Fairfax

Department of Public Works:

703-385-7810

[fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov)

#### Dig With C.A.R.E.

Miss Utility at 800-552-7001 or 811

[va811.com/how-to-when-to/](http://va811.com/how-to-when-to/)

Use TTY 711 (Virginia Relay)

for all numbers unless stated otherwise.

It is with deep sadness that Fairfax Water announces the passing of Frederick P. Griffith Jr. on August 5, 2022, at the age of 94. Working alongside a small team of dedicated professionals, Griffith was one of the founding leaders of Fairfax Water which was established in 1957.



Griffith joined the organization in 1958 as Deputy Engineer-Director and in 1985 became the Engineer-Director. He

successfully acquired numerous independent water systems, negotiated the sale of treated water to wholesale customers in neighboring jurisdictions, developed regional agreements to create storage reservoirs, and cooperatively use the Potomac River supply during periods of low flow in the river. To recognize his service to the community, Fairfax Water, in 2006, named their new state-of-the-art drinking water treatment plant in Lorton, VA, the Frederick P. Griffith Jr. Water Treatment Plant.

Since 1957, Fairfax Water has grown from an organization with no infrastructure or customers to the largest water utility in Virginia, producing high quality drinking water for more than two million residents of Northern Virginia. This is due in large part to the leadership and contributions of Frederick P. Griffith Jr. Our most sincere condolences go out to the Griffith family.

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Want to know when we're closed for holidays?

Check out our website!

[fairfaxwater.org/holidaycalendar](http://fairfaxwater.org/holidaycalendar)

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Fairfax Water is a public, not-for-profit water authority serving nearly 2 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties; Fort Belvoir, Herndon, Dulles, Vienna, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax City.



Know where your emergency shut-off valve is located. Even seconds of uncontrolled water use could be costly. For more tips on saving water, visit [wateruseitwisely.com](http://wateruseitwisely.com).