Fairfax Water

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Fall 2026

Fairfax Water General Manager Jamie Bain Hedges Retires



The Fairfax Water Board issued a Proclamation for Ms. Hedges at their meeting on July 23, 2026.

Fairfax Water announces the recent retirement of General Manager Jamie Bain Hedges, who concluded her distinguished service on July 31, 2026. Throughout her tenure, Ms. Hedges served as a transformational leader, guiding the organization with dedication, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Board Chair Philip W. Allin, along with the entire Board, expressed deep appreciation for Ms. Hedges's impact and her steadfast dedication to Fairfax Water's mission.

Additional accolades were extended by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Rep. James Walkinshaw, who recognized Ms. Hedges in the Congressional Record.

As the Board conducts a nationwide search for the next General Manager, Deputy General Manager Scott Dewhirst will serve as Interim General Manager. The Board expresses full confidence in Mr. Dewhirst's experience and leadership as he steps into this role.

Franconia District Board Member Update: A Farewell and a Warm Welcome



Frank R. Begovich

After 22 years of service, Frank R. Begovich concluded his tenure as the Franconia District representative on the Fairfax Water Board.

Mr. Begovich brought extensive leadership experience to the Board, serving ten years as Vice Chair and seven years as Secretary. He served on the Board's Infrastructure, Government Relations, Human Resources, and Nominating Committees, providing key leadership as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee for 15 years and the Nominating Committee for 19 years. Drawing on his distinguished military service and security expertise, he consistently contributed to advancing Fairfax Water's mission.

The vacancy created by Mr. Begovich's departure will be filled by Dana Kauffman. Mr. Kauffman represented the Franconia District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1995 to 2007 and brings extensive public service and leadership experience to the Fairfax Water Board.

Why Water Is Worth It: Understanding Your Water Rates



Providing safe, clean drinking water around the clock is Fairfax Water's highest priority. As with many essential services, the cost of maintaining and delivering high-quality water continues to rise. Inflation affects treatment materials, energy, equipment, and infrastructure, making service delivery more expensive for utilities nationwide.

Our Commitment to Keeping Water Affordable

Our goal is to balance fiscal responsibility with the critical investments required to maintain safe, dependable drinking water for our customers. Even with rising costs, **Fairfax Water continues to have the lowest water rate in the region**, reflecting our strong commitment to affordability and responsible stewardship. **The average residential customer pays about one dollar a day for water.** This makes your water bill one of the lowest utility bills you pay.



How Fairfax Water is Funded

Fairfax Water is a not-for-profit utility. We only charge what it costs to treat and deliver clean, reliable drinking water. We operate independently from Fairfax County Government and do not receive taxpayer funding. Our focus is financial responsibility, long-term system reliability, and maintaining affordability for the community.

Important Rate Information for 2027

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2026, 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 to the commodity charge from $4.35 to $4.61 per 1,000 gallons, effective with meter readings taken on or after April 1, 2027. The quarterly service charge would increase from $17.55 to $26.00 for a typical residential customer, on April 1, 2027. **If approved, the average customer's water bill will increase by about $4 a month.**

The public hearing will be held at Fairfax Water's main office at 8570 Executive Park Avenue in Fairfax. 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.



What: Public Hearing on Proposed 2027 Water Rates

When: Dec. 10, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Where: Fairfax Water's main office at 8570 Executive Park Ave. Fairfax, VA

Visit fairfaxwater.org/rates to view the proposed rates for 2027.

Please note: Fairfax Water does not provide sewer service, but we handle sewer billing for Fairfax County and the cities of Falls Church and Fairfax as a cost-saving convenience. Sewer rates and billing methods are set by your sewer service provider and may include a base charge, usage, taxes, or other fees. For details, visit fairfaxwater.org/sewer-charges.



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 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 not to distribute in clumps.
- Watch the temps. When it is colder than 15°F, do not apply winter salt; it will not work.

Visit **bit.ly/WinterSaltFW** to learn more.

Native Plants, Stronger Neighborhoods: How Fairfax Water Grants Make a Difference



Residents select plants at Fairfax Villa Neighborhood Association's Native Plant Open House.

Fairfax Water's grants are making our communities greener, one native plant at a time!

With support from a Fairfax Water grant, the Fairfax Villa Neighborhood Association hosted their second annual Native Plant Open House, bringing neighbors together to learn about eco-friendly gardening and take home native plants for their yards. More than 45 attendees stopped by, choosing from over 130 native plants representing over 30 species, plus ready-to-germinate pawpaw seeds. The event featured a gardening class, community plant donations, and other helpful resources to inspire sustainable landscaping.

Fairfax Water is grateful to the Fairfax Villa Neighborhood Association for its proactive work to protect the environment and is proud to stand behind efforts that make our communities greener.

KIDS' CORNER

Lights, Camera, Splash!
Water Movie Word Search

What's the best beverage for movie night? Tap water! It's refreshing, reliable, and always ready for the next scene. Enjoy your film and stay hydrated with Fairfax Water!

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Find these words:

Happy Feet
Jaws
Frozen
Ponyo
Muppet Treasure Island
Finding Nemo
Luca
Atlantis
Shark Tale
Moana

WISE WATER USE

Use the dishwasher only when you have a full load.

Dishwashers can use a lot of water. Be sure to only start a new load in the dishwasher when you have a full load. Visit **bit.ly/wiseH2Ouse** for more tips on wise water use.



CONTACT US

Fairfax Water

Emergencies/After-Hours
703-698-5613, TTY 711

Customer Service
703-698-5800, TTY 711
fairfaxwater.org/contact-us

Fairfax Water is a public, not-for-profit water authority serving nearly 2.2 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, and Fort Belvoir, Herndon, Dulles, Vienna, Alexandria, City of Falls Church, and Fairfax City.