

# Winter Newsletter



#### **Letter from the Executive Director**

Dear valued customers,

As we head into the holiday season and close out 2025, we hope you're just as optimistic as we are about what's ahead for our community here in Albemarle County.

At the ACSA we take great pride in using our natural resources well and providing quality service. That pride not only drives our day-to-day work; it guides our vision of the future. 2025 has seen the start — and completion — of a number of capital improvement projects like the Crozet Water Main Replacement project. While not always visible on a daily basis, each of these projects will ensure that clean, safe, reliable water and wastewater services continue to define who we are and what you can expect through 2026 and beyond. We'll also introduce a new customer information system designed to streamline billing and service requests. While this project is in its infancy, we look forward to sharing more in the coming year.



From all of us at ACSA, have a happy, joyful and thankful holiday season!

Sincerely, Quin Lunsford

Quin Lunsford, Executive Director



## **Capital Improvement Project Spotlight**

ACSA has a number of capital improvement projects underway. One we're especially excited about is replacing the cast iron water main along the Woolen Mills Factory corridor. The improvement of this water main (installed in the 1970s) is crucial to the success of the ongoing redevelopment of the area. Work will be completed by the end of December 2025.

#### Winter Weather Safety/Conservation

Winter weather brings its own style of fun and entertainment. From campfires and s'mores to winter hikes and cozy gatherings with family and friends, the season is ripe with opportunities to connect with loved ones and nature. Winter weather also brings its own challenges when it comes to staying safe and conserving energy.

Searching for ways to stay safe and conserve energy this winter? Here are three tips that are easy to implement and follow:

Protect Your Pipes

If you haven't already winterized your water pipes to prevent them from freezing, do so now. Insulating pipes in crawl spaces and uninsulated walls will probably take less than half an hour of your time, but it will save you hours and even days of headaches should the weather turn really cold this season.

#### Turn off Water Supply Before Leaving for Vacation

If you're traveling for the holidays, consider turning your water main off as an extra precaution to protect your pipes so that you return to clean, safe and reliable water service. Open all the faucets to drain them and relieve pressure and de-energize your water heater too.

3 Lower the Temp

Whether you have a smart thermostat or not, one easy way to conserve energy and save money is to lower your thermostat if you're going out of town or planning on being away from your home for more than a few hours. Just don't turn your heat off completely. Not only do plants and pets need to be kept safe and comfortable in the face of falling temperatures, but your pipes will thank you too.



### Day Without Water Art Contest Winners

Thanks to everyone who entered the 11th Annual Day Without Water Art Contest! Each year we invite the youth of our region to imagine a world without water as an exercise in illustrating water's integral value to every aspect of our lives. This year's contest theme, "Water Works," inspired so many thoughtful and moving pieces of art. Congratulations to our winners!



K – 2nd Grade Winner: **Adam Zoudri** (age 5) Mountain View Elementary



3rd – 4th Grade Winner: **Anna Ramsay** (age 9) Mountaintop Montessori



5th – 6th Grade Winner: Lydia Jones (age 11) Henley Middle School



7th – 8th Grade Winner: Ellie McWhorter (age 12) Village School



9th – 12th Grade Winner: **Natalia Salazar Fraire** (age 14) Charlottesville High School



Best Photography: Jackson Reeve (age 16) Monticello High School



Fan Favorite Winner: **Kinsleigh Breeden** (age 11) Henley Middle School









