

MEMORANDUM

To: Albemarle County Board of Supervisors
From: Quin Lunsford, Executive Director
Date: October 15, 2025
Re: Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) Quarterly Briefing
cc: Mr. Jeff Richardson, County Executive; Mr. Trevor Henry, Deputy County Executive; Ms. Ann Wall, Deputy County Executive; ACSA Board of Directors; ACSA Leadership Team and Operations Council

We do thank you for the continuing opportunity to share with the Board of Supervisors and the broader community what is happening at your water agency, the Albemarle County Service Authority. We pride ourselves on safe, clean, and reliable Albemarle water. We continue to focus on ensuring we provide exemplary service and deliver safe, clean, and reliable Albemarle Water. Here are some recent updates from the ACSA:

1. **Imagine a Day Without Water:** The Imagine a Day Without Water campaign, which will take place on October 16th, is a National Day of Action that brings together communities and stakeholders to highlight the true value of water in our lives. This is the eleventh annual celebration and the ACSA, RWSA, and City of Charlottesville will host our annual “Imagine a Day Without Water” student art contest. This year, students are being asked to convey the theme “Water Works” and the contest is open to all students in the Albemarle County/Charlottesville area. A copy of the program flyer is attached.
2. **ACSA Capital Projects Update:** The approved FY 2026 Capital Improvement Program totals \$18.5 million. The ACSA’s 10-year CIP invests more than \$176 million in infrastructure and upgrades. Highlights and current major projects are detailed below:
 - **Scottsville Phase 4 Water Main Replacement:** This project replaces aging and undersized asbestos-cement and cast-iron water mains along James River Road, Warran Street, and several streets in downtown Scottsville. Design efforts are nearing completion and easement acquisition efforts are underway.

- **Avon Operations Center:** The Avon Street Extended property has long been held as a future location to build additional facilities in a central location, as needed. The current Maintenance Yard at our Pantops Operations Center is becoming overcrowded with equipment and materials. This project will develop the ACSA owned Avon Street property into a satellite facility for larger vehicle and materials storage. This new site will also replace some of our storage at Crozet that was lost with the water plant expansion there. This site creates the opportunity for sustainable and conservation-oriented applications including solar energy and electric vehicle charging stations. This project is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2026.
- **Ragged Mountain Phase 1 Water Main Replacement:** This project will replace the oldest active water main remaining in our system, which was part of the water main that served customers along Fontaine Avenue Extended and Reservoir Road. This cast iron pipe is over 90 years old and is severely tuberculated, which greatly reduces the flow capacity in this section. Construction activities have begun in conjunction with RWSA's Ragged Mountain Reservoir to Observatory Water Treatment Plant 36" waterline project.
- **Northfields Water Main Replacement:** This project replaces asbestos cement water mains that were part of the original well system that dates to the 1960's. The project is currently under design and easement acquisition efforts are underway. Construction will occur in 2026 - 2027.
- **Briarwood Water Main Replacement:** Our Strategic Plan calls for the eventual replacement of PVC (pre-1990) water mains in our system, as they are older and made of weaker material than the current industry norm. This project will replace the PVC water mains that have been in service since the early 1980's. Construction activities are underway and the new water mains along Briarwood Drive, Whitney Court, Heather Court and Finch Court have been installed.
- **Broadway Street Water Main Replacement:** This project will replace the cast iron water main that was installed in the early 1970's and have been found to be in deteriorating condition based upon recent excavations. With the redevelopment of the Woolen Mills Factory and Albemarle County's increased attention on economic revitalization of this corridor, replacement of this water main is important in transforming this area. Approximately 75% of the new water main along has been installed.
- **Raintree and Fieldbrook Water Main Replacement:** This project will replace the PVC water mains that have been in service since the 1980s. The design phase is currently underway and will continue through 2026. Construction is expected to take place in the 2028 - 2029 timeframe.

- **Galaxie Farm Water Connection:** This project includes a water interconnect between the County's Southern Feeder Pattern Elementary School and the neighboring Galaxie Farm subdivision for redundancy and improved water quality.
- **Airport Trunk Sewer Upgrade:** With the continued growth in the Hollymead Town Center area, the existing sewer collector serving the airport and the area west of Route 29 needs upgrading to handle full build-out. The increased density specified in the County Comprehensive Plan for this drainage basin will exceed the capacity of the existing sewer. Design is ongoing and easement acquisition is underway. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026.
- **Bellair – Liberty Hills Sewer:** Over the past several years there has been an increase in residents of the Bellair Subdivision seeking to connect to public sanitary sewer service, since most residents are currently served by private septic fields. Design efforts are underway and construction is expected to begin in 2026.
- **Buckingham Circle Sewer:** In 2012, the ACSA completed the Buckingham Circle water main replacement project. At that time, the feasibility of installing a sanitary sewer system was explored but there was insufficient interest from the neighborhood. Recent communications with the community indicate a strong interest in extending public sewer into the neighborhood. The design process has begun and construction activities will begin in 2027.
- **Northfields Phase 5 Sewer:** During the design of the Northfields water main replacement project, staff identified sections of sanitary sewer that could be installed along the roadway in coordination with the water main replacement work. These efforts will provide sanitary sewer service to existing neighborhood properties currently served by private septic fields. The project is currently under design and construction is expected to begin in 2026 - 2027.
- **Barracks West Water Main Replacement:** This project will replace the undersized and aging cast-iron and galvanized water mains that were installed in the late 1960s. These water mains are original to the Old Salem Apartments development, now called Barracks West. The design phase is nearing completion and advertisement for construction is anticipated to occur this fall.
- **Townwood Water Main Replacement:** This project continues our systematic program to replace PVC water mains that have been in service since the early 1980's and have recently experienced several water main breaks causing water service disruptions. The design phase is nearing completion and construction is expected to take place in the 2026.

- **Customer Information System (CIS) Replacement:** This project includes an update to the ACSA's website and telephony system (completed) and implementation of a new Customer Information System. In alignment with our strategic plan, this implementation will improve the different ways our customers are able to interact with the ACSA. An RFP for a new CIS has been advertised and the highest rated proposers presented demonstrations in late September. We anticipate awarding in late 2025 with design, testing, and deployment to occur in 2026 - 2027.

Let us know if you have further questions or comments. We are more than glad to meet with you or hold a virtual meeting to talk about any of our projects, facilities, or provide a tour if that would be useful.

Attachments:

- Fall Customer Newsletter
- Imagine a Day Without Water Art Contest Flyer



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear valued customers,

With fall approaching I want to express our deep appreciation for the trust you put in ACSA's services every day. Your support allows us to provide clean, safe, reliable water for thousands of folks across our service area.

You may have heard mentions of PFAS ("forever chemicals") in national news coverage. Rest assured, our dedicated team is taking proactive measures to ensure your water meets and exceeds EPA and VDH standards. Additionally we continue to make progress on our capital improvement projects that will upgrade important water and wastewater infrastructure here in Albemarle County. Through these measures and key investments, we will continue to provide dependable, quality service where and when you need us in the years to come. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Quin Lunsford

Quin Lunsford, Executive Director



Briarwood Water Main Replacement

Your annual rate adjustments with the ACSA directly fund critical infrastructure upgrades like the Briarwood Water Main Replacement project. This investment replaces aging water mains that have caused service disruption for Briarwood residents — meaning your money is being spent on improving our communities.

Through this project and the installation of additional fire hydrants, Briarwood residents will experience improved fire protection, less service interruption and an increase in water service reliability. By replacing these key components, we can provide clean, safe, reliable water for the long term. *This project is on track for completion in 2026.*



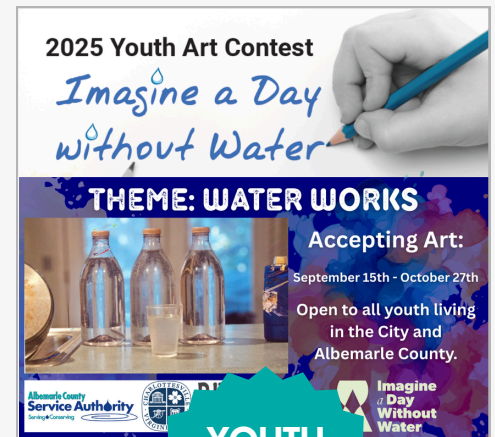
PFAS: Don't Panic — Prevent!

While we maintain high water quality standards, we also stay vigilant about potential contaminants that may be of concern to our customers. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as "forever chemicals") can be found in everyday household items — including takeout food containers, Band-Aids, shampoo, nonstick cookware and water-resistant products — but their possible presence in drinking water has received attention as well. Due to how slowly PFAS break down over time and how widespread they are, pinpointing a single source of contamination is difficult. Although on rare occasion PFAS have been detected in our water, levels never exceeded new federal safety thresholds.

While PFAS detections in Albemarle County are rare, we continue to stay ahead of the issue by investing in proactive solutions. From regular testing with our partners at Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority to long-term system planning, we work behind the scenes to ensure your water remains clean, safe and reliable. One important method is the use of GAC (granular activated carbon) treatment, which acts as a barrier against PFAS and other contaminants.

Because PFAS can travel downstream and affect entire watersheds, protecting our water is a shared responsibility. You can help us limit PFAS by choosing PFAS-free alternatives when shopping — such as swapping nonstick cookware for regular alternatives, using PFAS-free personal care products and properly disposing of household chemicals through local hazardous waste programs. These choices can help safeguard our region's waterways.

Scan the QR code to learn more about PFAS and prevention strategies.



**YOUTH
ART
CONTEST**

Calling All Artists: "Imagine a Day Without Water"

ACSA is proudly partnering with the City of Charlottesville and Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority for our annual "Imagine a Day Without Water" youth art contest! This creative competition invites students of all ages to explore the vital role water plays in our daily lives through artistic expression.

Submissions should showcase incredible creativity while building awareness about water conservation.

Contest submissions will be due Monday, October 27, 2025.

Encourage our youth to participate in this exciting opportunity to celebrate our most precious resource.

For additional details and submission guidelines, please scan the QR code.



2025 Youth Art Contest

Imagine a Day Without Water

Open to:
All Youth that live in the
City of Charlottesville
& Albemarle County in
Grades K to 12th.

Theme: "Water Works"

Water works hard—for you, your family, your community, and the planet. From brushing your teeth to growing your food, water makes everything work. This year, we want to see how you imagine a world where water works. Make every drop count through your art!

SEPT 15TH - OCT 27TH

Contest Rules

- ✎ All entries must convey the theme of the contest:
"Water Works"
- ✎ Entries must be the work of one individual student, no collaborations or AI-generated art.
- ✎ Multiple entries from the same student will be accepted.
- ✎ Original artwork or photography only. Entries submitted with copyrighted characters or images, and AI-generated art will not be accepted.
- ✎ Artwork can be any 2-dimensional size. Suggestion sizes are horizontal 11" x 8.5" for drawings and 4:3 ratio for photography.
- ✎ Any medium may be used (paint, colored pencils, crayons, markers, photography, etc.) No 3-D entries, please.
- ✎ Teachers may submit for students or students can submit independently through their parents.
- ✎ Submission Options:
 - Submit digitally through our Art Contest Platform Upload Form (accepts: JPEG/JPG, PNG, or GIF images).
 - Mail your entry to Water Conservation, PO Box 911, Charlottesville, VA 22902
 - In person at JMRL Central, Northside, and Crozet branches. Check JMRL.org for hours of service.

PRIZES

✓ For the Students:

\$200 gift card

One winner in each category

- Grades K-2
- Grades 3-4
- Grades 5-6
- Grades 7-8
- Grades 9-12
- Fan Favorite (voting Nov 17th - Dec 3rd)
- Best Photography

✓ For the Teacher:

Teachers that have their students participate will be eligible for **\$200 gift card** for classroom projects.

- Most classroom submissions
- A random winner each from a CCS, ACPS, and a private school or organization

The more students that participate will increase the odds of winning!

**Imagine a Day
Without Water**



www.charlottesville.gov/artcontest

Official Entry Form



2025 Charlottesville "Imagine a Day without Water" Art Contest: "Water Works"

Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

Division Category: Grades: K-2 ☐ Grades: 3-4 ☐ Grades: 5-6 ☐
(Please check one)

Grades: 7-8 ☐ Grades: 9-12 ☐ Photography ☐

Teacher Sponsor Name (if applicable) : _____

Home Phone Number: (____) _____

(Parent/Teacher signature)

E-mail Address: _____

If you are submitting in person or through mail, you must completely fill this out to be a valid entry.

Please write legibly! Electronic submissions will fill this out as part of your digital submission.

Posters become the property of the contest sponsors (City of Charlottesville, ACSA and RWSA) and will not be returned. The contest sponsors have the right to display or otherwise use the submissions for future promotions.

Deadline for all poster entries is Monday, Oct 27th 2025! Please attach this form to the back of your poster!

- Winners will be recognized through a press release and their work will be exhibited in public venues.
- A panel of judges (to be selected by the contest sponsors) will select the winning posters for each grade division.
- Posters will be judged on message (keep in mind the theme), originality, creativity and overall presentation.
- Posters must be submitted by October 27th using one of the official submission processes by the end of business day.
- The Fan Favorite winner will be selected by online voting from the top entries (number based on entries). The link with the eligible entries will be available at www.charlottesville.gov/artcontest starting on November 17th through December 3rd.
- One student may not win both the fan favorite and judges pick, and if the student is chosen for both, the fan favorite runner-up will win the Fan Favorite prize.
- The winners of all categories will be announced by December 10th, 2025.

For updates and full list of rules and contest information, please go to our website. www.charlottesville.gov/artcontest.

Submit Online:

www.charlottesville.gov/artcontest.

Submit by Mail:

Water Conservation, PO Box 911,
Charlottesville, VA 22902.

Submit in Person:

At JMRL Central, Northside, and Crozet
branches. Check JMRL.org for hours of service.

QUESTIONS?

Contact:

Jill Greiner

Water Efficiency Program Coordinator

434-970-3877

waterconservation@charlottesville.gov

Important: Each poster mailed or delivered in person **MUST** have the official entry form attached to the back.

All information must be filled in completely and legibly. Illegible and incomplete entries will be disqualified. Please print or type ALL information. Entry forms may be copied if needed.