

## Pool Cleaning and Draining Reminder

Marked by calendar, school, weather, or a feeling in the bones, summer is passing into autumn and before we know it, winter's cool grip will be upon us. In anticipation of such seasonal changes, perhaps you have been thinking of routine chores such as draining or cleaning your swimming pool. Although only a few would ever claim to enjoy such this task, but it would likely be an even more unpleasant experience if unexpectedly notified that how you are draining your pool is a violation of law and subject to fine. Ouch! Therefore, as a helpful reminder, and to save you from having a potentially already unpleasant pool-cleaning chore from taking a turn to the worse, the City's Public Utilities staff provide the following guidance.

State and federal laws prohibit anyone from draining many swimming pools into the stormwater drainage system. This means that the convenient stormwater inlet, culvert, stream, pond, or roadside ditch is not the place to drain your pool. Chlorinated pool water and pool cleaning products can harm aquatic life, and draining a large volume of water on the ground may easily



erode, degrade, and destabilize streambanks. The City's stormwater system is designed to handle draining rain and snow-melt safely and cleanly into our community's streams, not as a means to flush any and all unwanted material or fluids—including swimming pool water.

Additional information, including Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Swimming Pool Guidelines, may be found at <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/Water/PollutionDischargeElimination/SwimmingPoolGuidelines.pdf>.

For more information, please contact the stormwater coordinator David Ek at 703-257-8475 or at [dek@ManassasVA.gov](mailto:dek@ManassasVA.gov).

Good luck with the rest of your season's chores!