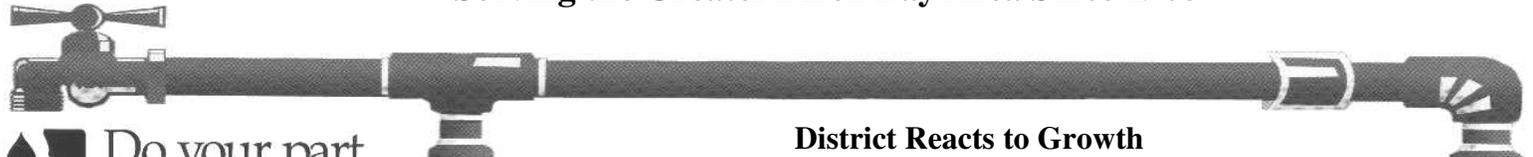


Birch Bay Water and Sewer Water Lines

Fall/Winter Newsletter 2006

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968



Do your part,
be water smart.

Gardening in Autumn

Fall is a great time to get busy in the garden in the northwest. With the cooler weather and shorter days, the northwest gardener has to spend less time battling weeds. Also, fall is the best time to transplant because plants are becoming dormant, so that transplanting shock is reduced.

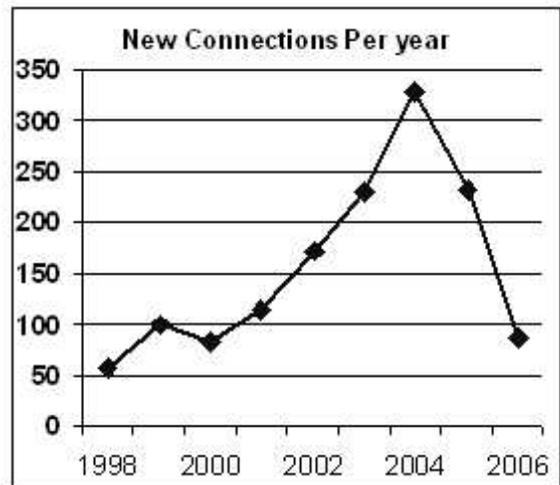
In addition, soil temperatures are still fairly warm and you can allow the natural rainfall to do the watering for you. By the time next summer rolls around, roots will be well established so that you won't have to water as much during our peak summer season. In designing your planting, group your plants by water needs. Good planning and layout helps create lush, colorful gardening without requiring lots of water. You may also want to consider reducing the size of your lawn by replacing turf in the drier areas with drought-tolerant ground covers such as ivy or blue star creeper. If you would like more information, please contact the District office for our Fall Planting Guide brochure.



District Reacts to Growth

For the last 16 years, the District has averaged just over 150 new water and sewer connections per year. As seen by this graph, 2003 thru 2005 were significantly over this average, while 2006 so far has been significantly below this average. From 2004 to date, the District has collected approximately \$4.2 million in General Facilities Charges for these connections. This money pays the connecting properties' share of the existing system and allows the District to implement projects that provide for additional capacity for future connections.

While the pace of development has slowed for 2006, there are still many developer projects in planning or under construction. The District's goals are to have adequate infrastructure and appropriate fees in place for projects that receive development permits from the County, which is the land use authority in our area. Accordingly, the District is updating our comprehensive plans, which will also look at the adequacy of the connection fees. Those fees help ensure that growth pays for its share of the system and not create a burden on the existing District ratepayers.



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Birch Bay View Community Sewer Project

This summer, the District completed the installation of a sewer system into the Birch Bay View Community, located above Birch Bay Village. This was the last heavily developed area in the District that was still on septic systems. The District's cost of extending this sewer is being covered by the collection of fees from the

(Continued on page 2)

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Little leaks can cause BIG bills!



(Continued from page 1)

property owners as they connect to the system. The fees associated with connecting to the system for each property owner that elects to connect is just over \$7,900. The District is requiring all developed properties to connect, unless they submit a letter from the County Health Department stating that their existing septic system is functioning adequately. To date, the majority of the property owners have elected to connect to the new sewer system.

The project received a 0.5% interest loan of \$897,600 from the Public Works Board and a grant of \$850,000 from the state Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The County helped secure and administer the CDBG funding and also will be contributing \$25,000 in County Road funds to assist the project. In addition, the federal Department of Agriculture (Rural Development Administration) provided grants and loans for low income property owners, 25 of whom also received direct CDBG grants to pay for construction of their side sewers. "Thanks to a coordinated funding effort involving a number of agencies, the District has been able to extend sewers to this area," says District Engineer Dan Eisses. "This alleviates a long-standing risk to public health and environmental quality due to failing on-site septic systems."

District Recognized for Outstanding Performance

The District recently received an "Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant" Award for the 2005 operating year, making it seven years in a row the District has received this honor. The notification letter from Department of Ecology states that Birch



Pictured above are General Manager Roger Brown, Operators Mike Roof and Fred Reid, Treatment Plant Manager Steve Hovde, and from DOE Richard Grout and Mark Henderson. Operator Jeff Brant not pictured.

Bay is among the 46 Wastewater Treatment Plants in Washington State that achieved full compliance with its NPDES discharge permit in 2005. Wastewater Manager Steve Hovde notes, "The Birch Bay community places a high value on protecting the environment and keeping our beaches clean. It's nice to receive this recognition that we are doing that job well." Birch Bay is one of just two facilities statewide to receive this award the past seven consecutive years.



Pump Station #3, located on Cotterill Boulevard just off of Birch Bay Drive, has undergone an almost complete rehabilitation this summer and is nearing completion. This station pumps the majority of the District's sewage to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The original 30 year-old station had been located in large below-ground vaults at this same location. The new above-ground building houses the pump control equipment and an emergency back-up generator. The contractor on the project was Strider Construction with a bid price of approximately \$850,000.

NOTICE OF DISABILITY NON-DISCRIMINATION
Birch Bay Water & Sewer District does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, purchasing, services or activities. Individuals who need auxiliary aids for effective communication in programs and services of the district can make their needs known to Glenn Golay, District ADA Compliance Coordinator.