

Birch Bay Water and Sewer

Water Lines

Summer Newsletter 2006

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968

 Do your part,
be water smart.

Birch Bay Discovery Days!

Yes that's right-Birch Bay Discovery Days is coming up. This year's event is scheduled July 15th and 16th and the District will once again be participating in the parade. We will also take part in the Arts and Crafts Fair, which will be located in the State Park. This will offer the fair-goers a gorgeous view of the Bay while perusing the various booths. District representatives will be on site to answer any questions you might have as well as offering several informative brochures. We will also have some other surprises up our sleeves so make sure to drop by and say "Hi".

Cross Connection Control Survey

Properly functioning drinking water systems are designed to prevent foreign substances from entering the water supply. When contaminated materials flow back in the wrong direction, it is called "backflow" and the source of the contamination is called a "cross-connection." For example, under certain unusual pressure conditions water can potentially be sucked back through a household

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Where Does Our Water Come From?

Here in Birch Bay our drinking water comes from aquifers – water-bearing geologic formations located deep underground. This water is pumped from a series of wells in and around Blaine and delivered to the District through a system of pipes. Like other natural resources, this supply is limited and must be managed carefully to avoid waste. The District is contracted to receive only about 1.6 million gallons per day from this water source during this summer's peak usage period. This may seem like a lot of water but as Water Manager Blair Beebe reports, "On hot days we will actually exceed our daily amount from Blaine and have to dip into storage to get by."

The District is currently working with Blaine on options to develop additional groundwater supplies and we are also studying the potential use of surface water from PUD 1 to increase supply and enhance reliability. All options the District is looking into are going to take time, of course, but even when new supplies come on line, conservation will continue as an important part of the District's resource management.

So as we get into the warm and wonderful summer season, the District once again requests the cooperation of our customers in using water wisely. Working together, we can avoid waste and help sustain our precious drinking water resource. Here are a few tips for water conservation.

Make Conserving Water a Habit. Inside your home, repair any fixtures that are leaking. To check for leaks in toilets place a few drops of food color in the tank of a toilet. You will be able to tell within 20 minutes if there is a leak (the water in the toilet bowl will show signs of the colored water from the tank). Turn off the tap in your bathroom while you brush your teeth. Take shorter showers. Don't let the water run constantly while you're washing or rinsing dishes. Fill a pitcher with tap water and put it in the fridge, rather than running the tap every time you want a cold drink.

Outside your home, repair leaky hose bibs. Clean sidewalks and driveways with a

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Little leaks can cause BIG bills!

Water Word Jumble

N S S I U I N H I O F
 O R L O M L Y O N S D
 I E R L L R A C N T D
 T W S L E O B W W T R
 A O U W C W H S N S I
 V H E L O L C O R W N
 R S U M M E R P E A K
 E T T I P S I M F N I
 S R H S O N B I I L N
 N O S R S N O L L A G
 O H O L T W M U L C H
 C S E N I L R E T A W

Find these words in the jumble

BIRCH BAY PEAK
 COMPOST TIPS
 CONSERVATION WATER LINES
 DRINKING WELL
 GALLONS
 LAWN
 MULCH
 REFILL
 SEWER
 SHORT SHOWERS
 SUMMER



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broom—don't use a pressure washer or the water hose. Water your lawn in the early morning to avoid evaporation. You can place a small empty can - a tuna fish can will do - in the area you are watering. Once the can is full the lawn has had enough water. Place a layer of mulch around trees and plants to retain water. When watering the garden, use a watering can or a hose with an on/off nozzle. While washing your vehicles be sure to use buckets of soapy and clear water. To remove any residual soap rinse quickly with the hose.

Thank you for doing your part in conserving water at home and enjoy the summer!



Trico Construction performing final clean-up work on the Birch Bay View Community Sewer Project. Sewer hook-ups to the newly installed system are expected this summer. Funding for this project is being provided by a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant Program and from the residents of the area.. The State Public Works Trust Fund Program is also providing low interest loan money to assist the local residents.

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fixture such as a hot tub back into the public water system. Last year the Board of Commissioners adopted an updated Cross-Connection Control Program to comply with current State Department of Health regulations and enhance protection of our drinking water resource. As part of that program, we are sending out questionnaires with a goal of evaluating all connections to our system. The questionnaire for residential customers is included with this edition of the newsletter. Residential customers having plumbing fixtures with possible backflow concerns will be asked to fill out the questionnaire and send it back to the District for further review. Commercial customers will be contacted with a separate letter. If you have any questions about the Cross Connection Control Program, please call the District office.

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.