

Birch Bay Water and Sewer

Summer Newsletter #2 2006

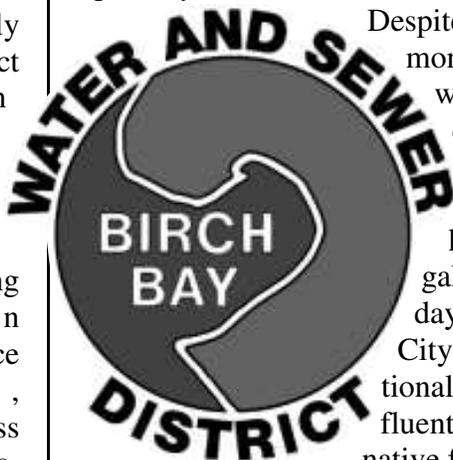
Water Lines

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968

Do your part,
be water smart.

School Poster Contest

This spring, students at Blaine Elementary School participated in the "Be Water Smart" water conservation program, jointly managed by the District and the City of Blaine. In this years program, 170 fourth graders received information about water conservation and prepared posters depicting water conservation themes. The first place poster by Jordan Stroop, from Mrs. Edgley's class is on page 2 of this newsletter. Other winners were: 2nd Place - Kaitlyn Pfeil (Mrs. Edgley), 3rd Place - Brandon Peterson (Mrs. McKowen) and Honorable Mention - Rouge Woodral (Mrs. Schulz).



Do We Have Enough Water?

As noted in the article on Discovery Days, a number of customers have asked if the District has enough water to provide for current customers as well as future development. This seems related to the surge in growth that has occurred over the past couple of years, coupled with District requests for voluntary conservation. Over the long Fourth of July weekend (also a Canadian holiday), for example, we had exceptionally high usage, which caused storage levels to fall. We asked our customers to help manage the situation by moderating their water use, especially outdoors.

Despite the requests to conserve during the summer months, we believe the District is providing a supply of water sufficient for current and future needs. We currently have peak day usage of 1.8 million gallons of water, which represents 35% of the 5.11 million gallons per day of water supply we have under contracts with the City (2.11 million gallons per day) and the PUD (3 million gallons per day). In addition, the District is working with the City on joint hydrogeological studies to develop additional groundwater rights. Reclamation of secondary effluent from wastewater treatment plants is also an alternative for irrigation and/or industrial uses.

"Since we signed the long term supply contract with the City in 2002, several new supply enhancements have come on line." states General Manager Roger Brown. He cites the District's Harborview/Drayton Harbor Waterline project, the temporary Bayview Intertie (both in 2004) and the City's recent installation of Well 4.2 among the improvements. In addition, over the next year the City plans to complete Well 9 and construct a re-

(Continued on page 2)

Discovery Days

The District once again enjoyed being part of Discovery Days, and would like to express our appreciation of the work of the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce in organizing the parade and other activities. We also would like to thank the people who came to visit us at our booth at the State Park. Many of the folks who stopped by had questions about the how the District water supply is keeping up with growth and concerns about whether the emphasis on conservation indicated we were running short. To address those issues, we have included an article on water supply in this edition of the newsletter.

Published by your
Birch Bay Water and Sewer District

7096 Point Whitehorn Rd
Birch Bay, WA 98230-9675
Phone: (360) 371-7100
Fax: (360) 371-2806

office@bbwsd.com
www.bbwsd.com

Commissioners:

Don Montfort
Carl Reichhardt
Patrick Alesse

General Manager:

Roger M. Brown

Little leaks can cause BIG bills!

(Continued from page 1)

placement for Well 5, while the District expects to expand and relocate the water line over the Dakota Creek Bridge.

The water supply system meets demand during normal periods by pumping water from wells, drawing on storage when needed for peak needs such as fire suppression and for periods of greater usage during the summer season. During extended periods of high demand, storage levels may fall to unacceptable levels. When that happens,

we ask our customers to use water wisely or even to cut back significantly if there is a severe problem. The District believes it is far less expensive for ratepayers to meet peak requirements with effective conservation than by building costly facilities which may only be used for a few days each year. In addition, public water purveyors such as the District are subject to state regulations which mandate water conservation programs, including the provision of timely public information to help manage peak demands. Such conservation efforts are a normal part of public water utility operations.

With continued high demand, the District is still asking customers to use water wisely and be especially mindful of outdoor water use. Some suggestions for cutting back on outdoor water use include:

- Lessen mowing chores and water bills by allowing your lawn to go dormant during the summer. It will bounce back with cooler fall weather and more abundant rainfall.
- Mulch flowerbeds to

retain moisture.

- Your lawn only needs about one inch of water per week – including rainfall - to stay green. Avoid over-watering by using a rain gage. Get one free by calling the District office at 371-7100!
- Sweep that driveway instead of power washing.
- If you are washing your car, use a nozzle and turn the water off when it's not in use. Better yet, go to a car wash that recycles water!

The District wishes you a warm and enjoyable summer in Birch Bay and thanks you for your help in managing our precious water supply!

Growth Pays for Growth

It is the District's policy to charge connection fees so that the costs of new facilities needed for growth are borne by the newcomers and not existing ratepayers. These connection fees, called "General Facilities Charges," currently total \$5,260 for each new unit requiring both water and sewer service. The District is currently revising its water and sewer comprehensive plans to ensure that planned facilities and the related connection are up to date.



1st place poster by Jordon Stroop in Mrs. Edgely's 4th grade Class

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.