

# WATER LINES

## BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968

Summer Newsletter #2 2009

### Wayne Drop Tightens

#### His Belt at District

The District has been aggressively pursuing conservation measures in all areas, including both water and energy.

Through efficiency improvements and changes in operation within the past year, the District's offices and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) have reduced power consumption by an average of 21 kilowatts per day. This is a reduction of over 10% from 2006 and 2007 levels and is equivalent to the amount of energy consumed by 16 average homes.

In addition, by changing settings, installing programmable thermostats and replacing old equipment with new high-efficiency units, propane consumption was reduced by an average of 100 gallons per month over



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### District and City Win Conservation Awards!



Emily Resch (District Water Conservation Spec.) Patrick Alesse (District Commissioner), Steve Banham (Blaine Public Works Director) and Bonnie Onyon (Mayor of Blaine) showcasing their recent conservation awards with conservation mascot, Wayne Drop. The City and District were awarded by the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association (PNS-AWWA) for their joint Residential Outdoor Water Conservation Program and Water Conservation Program for Youth.



## WATERING SCHEDULE

June 15 — September 15

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ODD	No Watering	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN

The District will be implementing a voluntary watering schedule effective June 15th through September 15th to help better manage our water supply during the summer months. The watering schedule is part of the Whatcom Water Alliance's regional water conservation program that is promoted by all major water utilities in Whatcom County. Residents with odd numbered street addresses can water on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses can water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Mondays are non-watering days to allow the Districts' reservoirs to recharge after the weekend. For more information visit [www.bbwsd.com](http://www.bbwsd.com) or contact the District at 360-371-7100.

## Water Conservation Ideas: Drought-Tolerant Hanging Baskets



### SAVE THE DATE!

#### “Conservation Makes Cents”

Date: August 28th

Time: 7pm

Place: Birch Bay State Park

Details: District Conservation Specialist will offer a hands-on presentation on leak detection and repair.



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Create a virtually no-care container with succulents and other drought resistant plants that also helps to conserve water around the home. The biggest challenge for growing beautiful hanging baskets is keeping them from drying out. You can make maintenance a breeze with a planting of drought-tolerant such as hens and chicks, lavender, sedum or other succulents. It is an unconventional and unique take on the traditional hanging basket, but requires next to no watering, even in hot, sunny situations. For more information about creating a drought tolerant hanging basket and a plant list please contact the District at 371-7100 or email [waterconservation@bbwsd.com](mailto:waterconservation@bbwsd.com)

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previous years' levels.

Other conservation efforts include the District's plan to replace the current heating and cooling system for the office buildings to further reduce propane and electric use.

The existing furnace and air conditioner in the office buildings are over 17 years old and approaching the end of their life. The new heat pumps will capture and use heat from the WWTP's effluent. The switch to heat pumps from the existing propane furnaces would amount to \$12,750 a year and \$200,000 over the 15+ year life span in energy savings.

## August is Leak Detection Month

The District would like to remind its customers that August is designated as Leak Detection Month. Leak detection and repair inside the house is often very easy and simple and is a great first step towards creating a water efficient home if checked regularly.

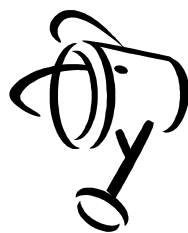
To help customers become more aware of leaks inside the home, the District will be hosting a public presentation with demos on leaking detection and repair August 28th at 7PM at Birch Bay State Park. We hope to see you there!



## WATERING EXEMPTIONS

The Voluntary Watering Schedule does not apply to the following situations:

- Drip irrigation systems or handheld watering methods
- Limited capabilities with existing older irrigation controller or devices
- Watering of flower and vegetable gardens
- Watering newly planted lawns



## OUTDOOR WATERING TIPS

**Go Golden!** Lawns do not need water to survive the summer heat. Grasses will recover when there is more precipitation and temperatures cool, or

**One Inch Per Week!** Turf-grasses only need 1 inch of water per week to stay green and healthy.

**Adjust mower height.** Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than closely clipped lawns.

**Regularly check and adjust your sprinklers.** Water only your lawn, not your sidewalk or driveway.

