

WATER LINES

BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968

Fall Newsletter 2008



A Big Thank You!

This summer was exceptionally dry, which normally would add stress to our water supply system as we attempt to keep up with surging demand. In June, for example, we went 20 consecutive days without rainfall and in July we only had 0.21 inches of precipitation compared to our 21 year average of 1.15 inches. Thanks to our customers' support for the Water Wisely Voluntary Watering Schedule and other conservation practices, usage remained 160,000 gallons below last year's peak of 1.93 million gallons. This enabled the District to serve our customers while keeping enough water in storage to provide for fire fighting and other contingencies, despite the challenging weather pattern.

In the next month or so, the District will meet with the other members of the Whatcom Water Alliance to review this year's conservation program and develop next year's regional program.

THANKS AGAIN!



Fall Planting

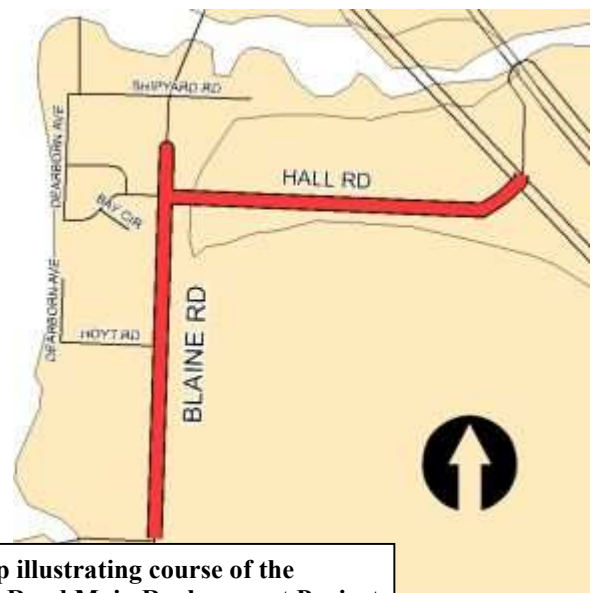
Autumn in the Pacific Northwest is a great time to get busy in the garden. The cooler weather, increase in rainfall, and shorter days allow the northwest gardener to plant a successful garden without extra effort or time!

Fall is a highly favorable period for planting trees, shrubs and perennial flowers. Plants require less water because of the cooler air and the warm soil temperatures allow plant roots to grow faster reducing transplant shock. Well established plant roots help to decrease the amount of water needed during our peak summer months. In addition to the ideal growing conditions, the fall rains can keep your plants watered and healthy. **MORE FALL PLANTING TIPS ON THE BACK!!**

Blaine/Hall Rd. Replacement Project

The District will begin opening bids on September 23rd for the Blaine/Hall Road Main Replacement Project. Currently, ninety-five percent of our potable water is transported through a single pipe from Blaine.

This project is designed to allow for additional flow into the District and provide a secondary source from Blaine in case of a failure from the primary intertie. Construction on the project is slated to begin in mid-October, with a total expected cost of \$1.7 million dollars. A low-interest (0.5%) Public Works Trust Fund loan and hook-up fees from developers will assist with construction costs.



Map illustrating course of the Blaine/Hall Road Main Replacement Project

Autumn Yard Care Tips

WATERING

- Reduce watering for cooler weather in September.
- When rain comes, shut-off and drain watering systems.
- Put away soaker hoses or cover with mulch if left out.

TREE AND SHRUB BEDS

- Plant trees, shrubs and many perennials in early fall to give them a good start.
- Mulch Tree and shrub beds with leaves, wood chips or bark.

LAWN CARE

- Plant new lawns between **Sept. 1—Oct. 15** to give them the best start before next summer.
- Improve thin areas of lawns in Sept./Oct. by aerating, over-seeding and top dressing with compost.

FLOWER/VEGETABLE GARDENS

- Pull emerging weeds in beds when ground is moist and before they develop deep roots.
- Mulch garden beds with leaves or compost to reduce winter weeds and feed the soil. OR plant winter cover crops in open beds.



District Pursues Forcemain Replacement Project

The District is working on developing a project to replace 9,000 feet of existing 14 inch forcemain from Pump Station #3 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with either a 16 inch or 20 inch pipe made of high density polyurethane (HDPE). The existing pipe is 35 years old and constructed out of asbestos concrete, which is a weaker piping material and not as durable as HDPE. The current forcemain transports 95% of all sewer flow to the WWTP.

The District has been working with the Washington State Historic Preservation Office on archeological concerns and hopes to begin the forcemain project in winter or spring of 2009.

REMINDER! Winterize Your Home

Most residential water leaks result from pipes breaking during winter freezes. Homeowners are responsible for ensuring their houses are protected from the occasional arctic blast that the Pacific Northwest occasionally gets. Fall is a good time to double check your water and sewer pipes to ensure everything is still protected before winter sets in. Water damage can cost you thousands of dollars. Here are some winterizing tips:

1. If you have heat tape, make sure it's working.
2. Check to see that vents under you home are closed.
3. Make sure you have no exposed water pipes.
4. Inspect your water system closely during and immediately following cold weather, to verify that your water pipes are still in good shape.
5. If you leave for the winter be sure to shut off water and drain your system.



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