

# WATER LINES

## BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968

Summer Newsletter #2 2008

### District Joins Whatcom Water Alliance



The District has become a participating member of the regional water conservation group, the Whatcom Water Alliance. The Alliance aims to promote efficient use of water by coordinating public information efforts and other conservation-related

activities. Joining the District in the Alliance are the cities of Blaine, Ferndale, and Sumas as well as Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District, Point Roberts Water District, Water District #2 and Water District #7. Bellingham, Lynden and Everson have been participating in Alliance meetings and are also considering joining the Alliance.

For 2008, the Alliance members have agreed to support a voluntary odd-even watering schedule. The watering schedule will be implemented June 15<sup>th</sup> through September 15<sup>th</sup>. During that time, residents with odd numbered street addresses are being asked to limit watering to Wednesdays, Fridays or Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays. Mondays are non-watering days to allow reservoirs to recharge after the weekend.

### Blaine and District Expand Contract

Effective May 27th, the District and the City of Blaine agreed to amend the wholesale water supply contract, originally signed in April 2002, under which Blaine pro-

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### Wayne Drop Comes to Birch Bay for the Summer!



Board President Patrick Alesse and Water Conservation Specialist Emily Resch welcome water conservation mascot "Wayne Drop" to Birch Bay! Wayne reminds us of our region's commitment to wise water practices. Enjoy the summer in Birch Bay, Wayne!

## WATERING SCHEDULE

June 15 — September 15

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

The District will begin implementing a voluntary watering schedule effective June 15th through September 15th. Residents with odd numbered street addresses may water on Wednesdays, Fridays or Sundays. Residents with even numbered street addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Saturdays, Mondays are non-watering days to allow the District's reservoirs to recharge after the weekend. **LAWNS ONLY NEED 1" OF WATER PER WEEK—WATER WISELY!** For more information visit [www.bbwsd.com](http://www.bbwsd.com) or contact the District at 360-371-7100.

# “GOING GOLDEN” LANDSCAPING

## Did You Know!

It takes a total of **more than 67,000 gallons to apply 1” of water per week** to an average lawn in America for 3 months during one summer.



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This year consider letting your lawn go dormant when precipitation decreases and temperatures increase in the summer. Dormancy is grasses' natural response enabling it to survive periods of inadequate water. Grass will recover once there is more precipitation and temperatures cool.

By letting your lawn “go golden” you can save money not only on your water bill, but reduce the cost and time it takes to maintain and landscape your yard.



### Landscaping Statistics:

- The average lawn in the U.S. is about 1/5 of an acre, or a bit less than 9,000 sq. ft.
- The average homeowner spends about \$220 and works over 150 hours annually on his/her lawn
- A standard 5 gallon per minute lawn sprinkler uses more water in an hour than a combination of 10 toilet flushes, 2 dishwasher loads, 2 five-minute showers and a full load of laundry
- Each weekend 54 million Americans mow their lawns, an activity which uses 800 million gallons of gas per year! With the price of gas over \$4.11 per gallon, there is a huge potential for savings by letting your lawn “go golden”.

## DRAYTON HARBOR RD.

### MAIN REPLACEMENT COMPLETED

A special thanks to the District's Water Operations staff for their work in successfully completing the Drayton Harbor Rd. water main replacement project. District staff worked closely with the District's contractors for four weeks to replace 6200 feet of 2.5” PVC pipe. This old pipe had been in the ground since before the District was formed in 1968 and was worn out. The District used pipe bursting to install new 4” HDPE pipe in prior to the County's asphalt overlay project in this area.

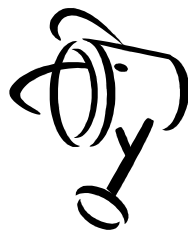
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vides drinking water to the District. The amended contract establishes financial arrangements and procedures under which the parties may share equally in new ground water supplies. For the past couple of years, the District has been working jointly with the City on groundwater studies and the two parties plan to seek additional groundwater rights later this year. The amended contract also requires the City and District to impose a regional capacity charge (RCC) on new growth. The RCC will help ensure that new development pays a fair share of the cost of building regional water supply facilities that serve the District and City.

## 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

**Only water your lawn when it needs it.** If you leave footprints in your lawn, it's time to water.

**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.

