


Birch Bay Water and Sewer Water Lines

Spring Newsletter 2006

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968



 Do your part,
be water smart.

Protect Drinking Water Quality - Prevent Backflow
Properly functioning drinking water systems are designed to prevent foreign substances from entering the water supply. Sometimes, however, contaminated materials can enter the private or public potable water system by flowing back in the wrong direction. When this occurs, it is called "backflow" and the source of the contamination is called a "cross-connection." For example, under certain unusual pressure conditions, standing water can potentially be sucked through underground sprinkler heads back into the public water system. Last year the Board of



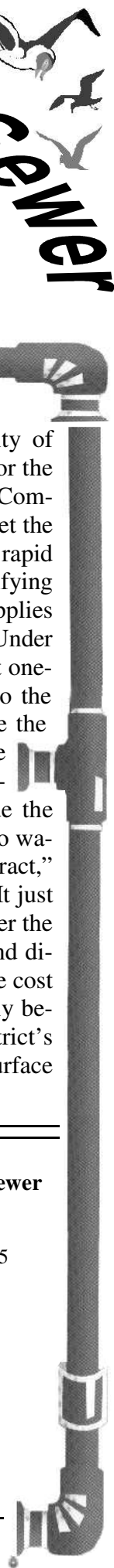
District Joins With Blaine in Water Study

Earlier this year, the District's Board of Commissioners and the City of Blaine agreed to work together in evaluating groundwater resources. For the past several months, the District and the City have been updating their Comprehensive Water System Plans to identify projects and resources to meet the needs of their respective service areas, which have been undergoing rapid development. One of the key issues addressed in these plans is identifying sources of water to meet future needs. Currently, the City of Blaine supplies all the District's water under the terms of a contract signed in 2002. Under that contract, the City and District each receive about one-half of the water available from wells drilled into the aquifers that underlie the Blaine area. Because the District and City both needed to look at the same groundwater resources, it was determined that cooperative efforts would provide the most effective and efficient approach. "The two water systems are linked physically and by contract," states District General Manager Roger Brown. "It just makes sense to work together where we can." Under the agreement, the District and City will jointly fund and direct a consultant review of groundwater options. The cost of the study is estimated at \$21,000, to be split evenly between the District and the City. In addition to groundwater, the District's Water System Plan will consider a range of other options, such as surface water supplies from the PUD and reclaimed water.

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. The first phase of this program, currently being implemented, focuses on locations specifically called out as potential high hazards in state regulations. Such locations include docks, marinas, medical centers and others – including the District's wastewater facilities. Later this year, we expect to send a questionnaire to those customers not already contacted, to evaluate all remaining connections to our system. It is anticipated that the questionnaire will be included with the next edition of this 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.

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Little leaks can cause BIG bills!





The District is currently working on Pump Station #3 Rehabilitation. This pump station, located near Birch Bay Drive and Maple Street, is the District's main station for pumping sanitary wastewater to the Treatment Plant. This project will replace the existing below ground station with the building shown above and increase pumping capacity by approximately 30%

Water Saving Tips

1. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back, when you lift your foot, it doesn't need water. So set your sprinklers for more days in between watering. **Saves 750-1,500 gallons** per month.
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. **Saves 20 gallons** per day for every leak stopped.
3. Don't run the hose while washing your car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. **Saves 150 gallons** each time. For a two-car family that's **up to 1,200 gallons** a month.
4. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. **Saves 500 to 800 gallons** per month.
5. Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. **Saves 300 to 800 gallons** per month.
6. Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can **save up to 700 gallons** per month.
7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks. **Saves 150 gallons** or more each time. At once a week, that's **more than 600 gallons** a month.
8. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. **Saves 400 to 600 gallons** per month.
9. Capture tap water. While you wait for hot water to come down the pipes, catch the flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. **Saves 200 to 300 gallons** per month.
10. Don't water the sidewalks, driveway or gutter. Adjust your sprinklers so that water lands on your lawn or garden where it belongs--and only there. **Saves 500 gallons** per month.

Look for our 2006 water quality report also included with this newsletter.

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.