



Birch Bay Water and Sewer Water Lines

Spring Newsletter 2007

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968



Do your part,
be water smart.

Blaine Road Water line Replacement Project

The District recently opened bids on reconstructing the water line on Blaine Road from just south of the Birch Bay Lynden Road to the vicinity of Double R Ranch. The water line to be replaced is one of the existing water lines installed by the Birch Bay Water Company prior to the formation of the District in 1976. Four contractors submitted bids for the project with the low bid being \$182,500 from Larry Brown Construction, Inc. The District expects the project to get started in May and last approximately 4 to 6 weeks. The District anticipates some disruptions to traffic, but a full road closure should not be necessary.



Dakota Creek Crossing

The District has begun designing a replacement water line for the Dakota Creek crossing. The existing water line is attached to the bridge, delivers most of the District's water supply from Blaine. The new water line is being designed to be bored under the creek separate from the bridge. The replacement project will continue south to the intersection of Blaine Road and Drayton Harbor Road. This is intended to provide more reliability and increase capacity by approximately 450 gpm (40%) over the existing water line. The process of boring under the creek is similar to drilling a pipe into the ground, although it is done in a horizontal direction. The equipment used has the capability to change direction during the process such that the finished pipe will have a gentle curve to it. This means that the equipment will start on one side of the creek and will push the pipe approximately 20 feet under the lowest point of the creek and then curve gradually upward to emerge on the other side.

With this procedure, the District expects no disturbance to the creek's aquatic environment. Following the environmental permitting process, the project is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2008.



A crew has been drilling a new well to supply water to both Blaine and Birch Bay. The new well is located in the City's well field

Published by your
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District**

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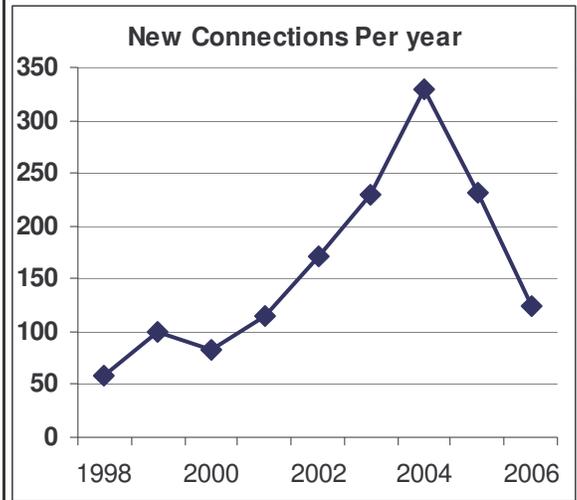
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Little leaks can cause **BIG**
bills!

District Updating Water and Sewer Comprehensive Plans

The District strives to have adequate water and sewer infrastructure and appropriate fees in place for development projects approved by Whatcom County, which is the land use authority in our area. The primary method of accomplishing this is to have comprehensive plans describing the District's water and sewer systems and identifying projects needed to keep pace with new development, changing regulatory requirements and rehabilitation needs. In addition, comprehensive plans estimate the cost of growth-related projects and establish the basis for connection fees for new development. The plans are normally revised about every six years. For the years from 2003 to 2005, the actual growth rate was well above the District's average long-term growth rate. In response to that high growth rate, the District began updating its water and sewer comprehensive plans. While 2006 and the beginning of 2007 have seen a significant reduction in that growth rate, there are still many development projects under way – either being built or in the permitting process. The District will forecast when these projects will connect to the District system and plan projects needed for adequate water and sewer capacity. The water comprehensive plan is nearing completion, which will be followed by the sewer comprehensive plan. After adoption



of each plan, the Board of Commissioners will consider the need to increase the connection charge for new development. Reviewing the connection fees helps the District ensure that growth pays for its fair share of the system without unduly burdening current District ratepayers.

Crossword Connection

U T B I R C H B A Y B D
 A R I U P G R A D E A G
 N E C F B D E G O G F N
 K A F S O I L A Q N P O
 V T U B X R N R R I V T
 Y M N V U A T D P R H A
 W E L L S L M E D P K L
 P N A Y U L B N R S H Y
 W T S Z N J K S F G Y U
 Z C O N S E R V E H W R
 M T K C O L R E H S Q W
 V D R I L L I N G I D G

Find these words in the word jumble above!

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| RETROFIT | SPRING |
| GARDEN | BULBS |
| TREATMENT | FUN |
| WELLS | DRILLING |
| BIRCH BAY | |
| SUN | |
| UPGRADE | |
| SOIL | |
| CONSERVE | |



Spring has sprung....Have you sprung a leak?

Most residential water leaks result from wintertime freezes. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure that your home is winterized and protected and, in the spring, to check to make sure your winterizing worked.

Spring is a good time to check your water meter to make sure that you don't have a leak. We have recently found a number of homes with very high usage that was a result of a leak inside the home. Most water meters have a leak detector that makes it easy to check for leaks. Please call the office if you have questions.

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.