

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

ANNEXATIONS- The District has completed annexation into the District of two areas, River District north of the freeway and south of the Spokane River and the 9 acre Heggem property on east Appleway. Under final review by the Washington Boundary Review Board is the annexation of 49 acres of the Spokane County Regional Park at the southeast corner of Liberty Lake for water service.

PORT OF ENTRY- The Washington State Department of Transportation (DOT) is constructing a new port of entry about 1 mile west of the existing weigh station on the north side of the freeway. DOT has requested the extension of water from the district to the new facility. The District has contracted with DOT to bore under the freeway for the installation of the water line. The boring to be completed in 2009.

LOOPING PROJECT- The District and Greenstone Homes Inc. will be boring under the freeway just west of George Gee for the purpose of looping a second water line across the freeway. A second bore in the same location to occur installing casing for future reuse water lines. Presently only one water main serves the area north of I-90. A second water main is important for future growth of the area and water reliability. The second bore will be a casing for future “purple pipe” and reclaimed water. Future improvements to the treatment plant will allow for treated effluent to be used for irrigation or other purposes. Most of the potential sites for irrigation are on the south side of the freeway. This project is expected to be completed in 2009.

TREATMENT PLANT RECEIVES AWARD- The District’s wastewater treatment plant has received the 2008 Outstanding Performance Award from the Washington State Department of Ecology. This is the third time the District has received the award. Congratulations to Dan Grogg, Chief Operator, and Operators Darrell Gamble and Mike West for outstanding work.

RECLAIMED WATER PLAN- The District has hired Century West Engineering to develop a Reclaimed Water Plan. The plan will outline steps necessary to upgrade the treatment plant to meet Class A effluent standards, determine options for disposal of reclaimed water, potential funding for the project, cost projections for various options, easements, and property purchases. Potential sites for reclaimed water use are golf courses, parks, freeway aprons, stormwater swales, and Saltese wetland restoration. For additional information contact Lee Mellish at 922-9016.

WARN- The District has joined with other water and sewer utilities in the state to form a statewide mutual aid network called the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network or WARN. The purpose of the network is to provide assistance to utilities in time of emergency or disaster. Emergencies may include fire, explosion, flood, severe weather, drought, earthquake, volcanic activity, spills, contamination, disease, civil disturbance, riot, sabotage and war.

WICOMICO SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT- The sewer replacement project on Wicomico Beach is completed. Approximately 23 homes were reconnected to a new sewer main replacing a deteriorated main probably installed over 75 years ago. Advanced Excavation of Moses Lake was the contractor on the project.

OUTLET CHANNEL CLEANING- The outlet channel of the lake is cleaned twice a year to remove debris and silt. The outlet channel terminates at two sumps, one along Liberty Drive and the other behind Jiffy Lube. The lake has no natural outlet and all the spring runoff from the lake returns to the aquifer through these sumps. The District has an interlocal agreement with Washington State Department of Ecology to maintain the lake at the adjudicated level of 2049.5 and remove debris from the channel.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING- In conjunction with Washington State University, ongoing annual nutrient and water quality monitoring on the lake and tributaries is conducted. So far this year water quality for the lake has been exceptional. WSU provides an annual report on the lake monitoring. For additional information contact BiJay Adams 922-5443 Ex. 230.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL- Milfoil is an invasive aquatic weed found at Liberty Lake. Surveys this year revealed infestations scattered near shore around the lake. A herbicide treatment of 13.5 acres was conducted by a state licensed applicator in late July. Water quality samples were taken after the treatment to assure the chemical did not exceed water quality limits. To reduce the spread of milfoil, it is important to check boats and trailers for weeds prior to launching. For more information contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ex 230.

FERTILIZER- This year is the 5th year the District has teamed with Greenstone Homes Corporation to offer free 50 pound bags of phosphorus free fertilizer to residents in the watershed of Liberty Lake. Fertilizing with phosphorus free fertilizer is important to prevent lake, river and aquifer contamination. Annually approximately 200 bags are distributed. Vouchers for fertilizer are distributed to qualified residents. The fertilizer is donated by Greenstone Homes. The program ends August 28th, 2009.

STORMWATER- In an effort to protect the lake, groundwater and property, the District has adopted policies, guidelines and recommendations for treatment and control of stormwater. Any activity that disturbs the natural ground cover in the watershed of the lake will require a Stormwater Drainage Management Plan. It is recommended that before any construction is started that you contact the District regarding plans and permits. The District main office number is 922-3443 extension 221.

DISTRICT WEB SITE- The District's web site is getting a makeover. All the same information will be available, but in a different layout and design. For additional information contact Glenys at 922-5443 ext 221 or by e-mail at info@libertylake.org.

WATER CONSERVATION-The drinking water source for Liberty Lake is wells drawing from the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Residents are encouraged not to waste water and conserve when possible. Irrigation of lawns is the largest use of water at Liberty Lake. Watering to the depth of 4 to 6 inches encourages deeper, healthier root development and allows longer periods between watering. Just over 1" of water per week is all that is needed. To measure your water use, place an empty tuna can on the yard while watering. Adjust watering during rainy/cool periods. It is recommended to water between 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to reduce water loss by evaporation. Water use in excess of 240 gallons per day is charged a premium rate. The District has initiated a Sensor Incentive Program in 2009 that provides moisture sensors and rain sensors to the district's largest water users. The program for qualified customers includes a survey of the irrigation system, recommendations for better efficiency and installation instructions for the sensors.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS- The Board of Commissioners, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District meet the third Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., at the District Administration Offices, 22510 E. Mission Ave, Liberty Lake, WA 99019. The 2009 Board of Commissioners is Tom Agnew, Steve Skipworth and Frank L. Boyle.

PHOSPHORUS FREE LAWN FERTILIZER POLICY- LLSWD Board of Commissioners adopted a Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer No Use Policy in June 2009. The purpose is to reduce phosphorus in the environment that impacts waterways and increases aquatic growth. This recommendatory policy is directed to all residents in the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. Liberty Lake resident Tom Brattebo was instrumental in adoption of the policy.

SPOKANE RIVER WATER QUALITY STANDARDS-The Spokane River does not meet the water quality standard of the State of Washington for dissolved oxygen. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) began the process of developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the river to address water quality issues as they related to dissolved oxygen. It has been determined that phosphorus reduction in discharges to the river was the effective way of meeting river standards. A public / private organization called the Spokane River Stewardship Partners (SRSP) has been addressing these issues which have resulted in significant improvements over the past 30 years in Spokane River quality. The members include Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, City of Spokane, Spokane County, Kaiser Aluminum, Inland Empire Paper Company, City of Post Falls, City of Coeur d'Alene, Avista Utilities and Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board. SRSP members have installed modern wastewater treatment plants to treat waste and reduce pollutants. The City of Spokane is conducting studies to determine methods to better reduce phosphorus. Spokane County is building a \$140 million state of the art water reclamation facility that will treat wastewater to ultra clean levels. Inland Empire Paper Company has invested over \$9 million in new technology. Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls are completing significant upgrades to their plants. Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District has spent over \$10 million upgrading its treatment plant to remove 80% more phosphorus. Even with new technologies, standards being proposed by DOE will be the most stringent in the nation, approaching the level of known technology. The District's treatment plant will need additional upgrades in the future to meet new standards. The District as well as the SRSP is committed to a healthy river and watershed though faced with difficult challenges in the future. For additional information contact Lee Mellish at 922-9016.

WATER MAINS TO BE CONSTRUCTED EAST SIDE OF LAKE- Greenstone Homes is developing lots at Mackenzie Bay on the east side of the lake. This development will require a new water main to be constructed beginning near the Meadowwood Golf Course and extending to the Spokane Regional Park. In addition, a water reservoir will also be constructed to supply development on the east side. Presently, the Spokane County Regional Park and several homes near the park are served water from the privately

owned Greenridge Homeowners Association, the housing development overlooking the lake from the east. Upon completion of the new water main and reservoir, the Greenridge line to the County will be disconnected. This project is expected to be complete by December 2010.

METER ACCESS- Meters are read for residential customers only 4 times per year. Customers are required to keep the meter vault clear of obstructions such as shrubbery, debris, machinery, vehicles, boats, etc. Customers with meters in back yards must provide access for meter reading. The District, on occasion, will trim shrubs to access meters. Don't fill meter box with material that will absorb water and freeze. For additional information contact John Yake at 922-5443 ex 227.

CONTACT US- For information or assistance from your friendly LLSWD staff
Manager – Lee Mellish- 922-9016
Accountant- Kathy-922-5443 ex-225
Office Assistant-Glenys-922-5443 ex 221
Lake Protection/Water Conservation- BiJay Adams- 922-5443 ex 230
Treatment Plant- Dan Grogg- 922-5443 ex 236
Water / Sewer- John Yake- 922-5443 ex 227
Project Inspection-Larry White-922-5443 ex 228

DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT OPTION- A direct debit payment option is available to pay water and sewer bills. After we receive an authorization form and a copy of a canceled check, the amount of the bill will be removed from your account automatically on the date specified. If interested in signing up for direct debit payment contact Kathy at 922-5443 ex 225 or obtain the form on the District web site at www.libertylake.org.

RECYCLE HAZARDOUS WASTES-Hazardous wastes should not be flushed down the toilet. The District's treatment plant is a biological process and may not remove some hazardous chemicals. Hazardous wastes such as used oil, antifreeze, pesticides, herbicides, etc can be recycled at the Spokane County Transfer Station at N. 3941 Sullivan at no cost.

HOW TO READ YOUR BILL- The District bills 4 times per year for residential customers. Each cycle is billed in advance for current charges plus past due balances. Past due bills are charged 10% late charge on previous balance. Monthly sewer rate is \$27.00 plus tax. Water is \$10 plus tax for 240 gallons per day based on a 30 day month. Most residential homes exceed the 240 gallons during the summer irrigation season. The rate for water usage in excess of 240 gallons per day is higher. For a detailed explanation of the bill, go to the District web site at www.libertylake.org and click on billing and finances.

WATER BILL TOO HIGH? It could be leaky faucets, toilets or even your service line. Call John Yake at 922-5443 Ex. 227 for assistance in finding these wasteful leaks.

EMERGENCY PLANNING- The Aquifer Protection Council made up of water utilities, local and state agencies from both Idaho and Washington recently conducted a table top exercise regarding response to a major incident involving the aquifer. Also participating in the exercise were local and state law enforcement, emergency response agencies, FBI and elected officials. The Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for more than 500,000 people in Spokane and N. Idaho. Coordination and communication was determined critical between the agencies in the event of an emergency.

PHOSPHORUS FREE DISHWASHER DETERGENT- Phosphorus in dishwasher detergent was banned by the State Legislature effective July 1, 2008 for Spokane County. The law will be effective for the entire state in July 2010. Reducing phosphorus in dishwasher detergent is easier and cheaper than trying to remove it from wastewater that is eventually discharged to the Spokane River. District treatment plant records show a slight reduction in phosphorus levels in the incoming wastewater. District residents are encouraged to use the recommended phosphorus free detergent.

SHORELINE ACTIVITIES- Living near the shoreline of lakes and water bodies in Spokane County brings added responsibilities. There are regulations governing activities with 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark. These include all construction activities, removal of vegetation and docks. If planning to build outside the regulated "buffer zone" or even within the watershed boundaries, the District's stormwater requirements must be met. Before building, removing trees or commencing any construction activity near the shoreline please contact the District and Spokane County before construction. Permits are required from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Spokane County for improvements to shoreline or building/rebuilding docks. For additional information contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ex 230.

SECURITY OF FACILITIES- Security of District water and sewer facilities are an ongoing process. The use of fencing, alarms and other electronics is being used; however, the eyes and ears of our residents and customers are also important. If you see any suspicious activities around any well house, reservoir, sewer lift stations, manholes, fire hydrants, etc, please call 911 immediately.

PROBLEM AFTER 5:00 P.M. OR ON WEEKENDS? District staff are on-call 24 hours per day, 7 days a week for water main breaks, grinder pump alarms, emergency water leaks, and other customer water and sewer emergencies. The after hours dispatch is 623-7920.

NO FEEDING WATERFOWL- In an effort to protect public health, reduce pollutants that contribute to algae blooms, and control of waterborne parasites, (i.e. swimmers itch), the District is requesting no feeding of waterfowl, including ducks, geese and gulls. Signs have been posted throughout the community. The Department of Fish and Game also strongly recommends not feeding birds or other wildlife.

WATER REUSE AT TREATMENT PLANT- Instead of using drinking water to wash down the machinery and equipment at the wastewater treatment plant, the upgraded plant has been designed to use the treated effluent as utility water. The lawn and landscaping is also watered with this water. In addition, a drip irrigation system has been installed to water poplar trees planted around the treatment plant perimeter.

AQUIFER VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP- A popular Internet field trip site for students and teachers is the Aquifer Virtual Field Trip at www.spokaneaquifer.org/kids/index.htm. Learn about the hydrologic cycle, ground water aquifers, Ice Age Floods, how water is used, water related poetry and art, effects of urbanization and so much more. There are two versions, grades 1-4 and grades 5-8.

EVENTS- 7th Annual Spokane River Clean Up- Sept. 26, 2009- Contact Steve Faust, Friends of the Falls, (509) 981-6296 for information on sponsoring and participating.

Ewings Water Conservation Workshop-11511 E. Indiana, Spokane Valley, Saturday mornings August 1,8,15 or 22nd, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. reviewing products for landscape design, Sensors, weather stations, smart controllers, and rotary nozzles. Call 509-921-9530 for information.