

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

LIBERTY LAKE WATER RECLAMATION PLANT RECEIVES STATEWIDE AWARD- The District's water reclamation plant has received for the second consecutive year the Washington State Department of Ecology Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant award for 2009. This is the 4th time that the District has received the award, 1997, 2006, 2008 and 2009. This is a result of the outstanding work of Chief Operator Dan Grogg and plant Operators Darrell Gamble and Mike West. The award represents a perfect record in meeting the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements for discharging to the Spokane River.

BEAVERS AND A NEW TRAIL- Beavers have been key agents of riparian succession and ecology throughout North America. The beaver is considered a "keystone species" because it fundamentally influences the ecology of headwater streams and adjacent riparian areas. Beavers can benefit by elevating ground water levels, improving vegetation, reduce water velocities, reduce stream bank erosion, reactivates floodplains, improves fish habitat, reduces downstream sedimentation, improve water quality and helps in restoration of degraded riparian systems. Beavers can also be problematic conflicting with human activities causing blocked culverts, flooding, and tree damage. The Spokane County Regional Park has experienced issues with beavers along Liberty Creek on the west side of the park. The main park trail and its connection to the Edith Hansen trail are being threatened by beaver dam flooding. To avoid these conflicts, Spokane County, the Washington Trail Association and the Backcountry Horsemen have just completed a new section of trail to avoid future flooding by beaver activity. The new trail is designed to allow the beaver to continue their work for the benefit of the watershed of Liberty Lake and the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer and provide continued use of the trail. For more information contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 Ex. 230.

I-90 BORE PROJECTS- The District is winding up the last of three bores under the I-90 freeway with 36 inch casings for potable water and reclaimed water. The first casing is located across from the new Department of Transportation Port of Entry near the state line. This casing includes a 12 inch water main to serve the new facility. Also included within the casing is a 4 inch casing for a Quest fiber optic line. This project was paid for by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The second and third bore projects are approximately a quarter mile west of the Harvard Road overpass on the north side of the freeway. The first 36 inch casing is for future "purple pipe" (reclaimed water) when and if the treatment plant effluent will be reclaimed and used for irrigation or wetland rehabilitation on the south side of the freeway. The second 36 inch casing is a project of Greenstone Homes to install a new water main for use on the north side of the freeway. This project will loop the Districts system with a second water main and prevent problems if one water main goes down. For additional information contact Lee Mellish at 922-9016.

HAZARDOUS AND TOXIC CHEMICALS- It is a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act to dispose of toxic or hazardous chemicals into street drains, sewers, drywells or at self-service car washes which could contaminate surface or ground water. The Spokane County transfer station at 3941 North Sullivan road will accept chemicals such as waste oil, antifreeze, herbicides, pesticides, degreasers, paints, etc at no charge. The District water reclamation plant is not capable of treating these kinds of chemicals and if introduced into the sewer system could pollute the Spokane River or the Aquifer. For additional information contact the Spokane County recycle hotline (509) 625-6800.

WATER CONSERVATION- The District's drinking water source are wells drawing from the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. The District encourages residents with lawns not to waste water and conserve wherever possible. Watering to a 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 rates at Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District are base on 240 gallons per day consumption. Water use in excess of 240 gallons per day is charged at a premium rate. Water sold to residential customers in 2009 was 498 million gallons of a total of 1,032 million gallons sold. For 2679 residential customers, this is an average of 509 gallons per household per day for the year 2009. Unaccounted-for water is about 5% which is good for a water system.

FERTILIZER PROGRAM- 2010 is the 6th year that the District has teamed up with Greenstone Corporation to offer free 50 pound bags of phosphorus free fertilizer to residents living in the watershed of Liberty Lake. Starting Friday, June 25th, you may bring your voucher and pick up your free bag of P-free fertilizer at the District Administration offices, 22510 E. Mission Ave. between hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The offer is valid weekdays through August 27th, 2010. For more information contact Bijay Adams at 922-5443 ex. 230.

ELECTRONIC PAYMENT-Monthly billing is now available. Monthly billing is only available to those making payment by “**Direct-Debit**”. Your payment for charges will be withdrawn from your account on the last day of the month or the next business day if it falls on a weekend. You will continue to receive quarterly billings showing usage and overages. Payment for charges can also be done by “**Direct-Debit**” on a quarterly basis. The authorization form is available at the Administration Offices, 22510 E. Mission Ave., Liberty Lake, WA or on the web site at www.libertylake.org. and can be mailed to the office. For additional information contact Glenys at 922-5443 ex. 221.

DISTRICT WEB SITE- Check out the District’s web site at www.libertylake.org. Information regarding rates, staff, water quality water conservation, lake protection, lake levels and much more.

WATER BILL TOO HIGH? If you think your water bill is too high, it could be leaky faucets, toilet bowls or even a service line problem between the meter and the house. To check for leaks in your home or business, first check the toilets and sinks. Toilets that don’t completely shut off and faucets that drip are wasting water. Leaks can occur in the service lines between the meter and the house. A dripping faucet that fills a cup in 10 minutes wastes 3280 gallons per year. Another way to check for water leaks is to turn off all water and check the meter. If the small wheel is turning on the meter, there could be a leak either in the house or in the service line to the house. Call John Yake, Chief Operator, for assistance in determining if a problem exists. John can be reached at 922-5443 ex. 227.

IRRIGATION SENSOR INCENTIVE PROGRAM- The District has initiated an irrigation sensor incentive program for Liberty Lake residents and businesses. The idea is to promote the “fine tuning” of residential and commercial irrigation systems by using moisture sensors to control the irrigation system electronics resulting in watering when landscapes need water. To learn more about moisture sensors, irrigation controllers, and rotary and spray sprinklers a Water Conservation Summit and Field Day is being planned by Ewing on Saturday, July 10th, 9a.m to 12 p.m. at their store located at 11511 E. Indiana, Spokane Valley. For additional information regarding sensors and irrigation contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 Ex. 230.

WATERSHED PLEDGE- The District plans to renew the successful **WATERSHED PLEDGE** program started by the Washington State Department of Ecology in 2008. The funding has been eliminated for the program, but several citizens are interested in pursuing the revival of the program via the internet. A planning meeting of the Watershed Committee is scheduled for Wednesday June 23, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration Offices, 22510 E. Mission Ave. This meeting is open to the public.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS- The Board of Commissioners, Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District meet on the Third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District Administration Building, 22510 E. Mission Ave., Liberty Lake, WA Your 2010 Commissioners are Steve Skipworth, President; Frank L. Boyle, Secretary and Tom Agnew, Commissioner.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT- Annually, on or before July 1, 2010, the District sends to every water customer a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). This report will show the status of the water quality of the water provided at Liberty Lake. This year’s report meets all the requirements of the Washington State Department of Health.

SPOKANE RIVER / LONG LAKE DISSOLVED OXYGEN- The United States Environmental Protection Agency have issued a Total Maximum Daily Loading (TMDL) for wastewater dischargers to the Spokane River. The TMDL establishes a plan to reduce nutrients in the Spokane River and Long Lake to prevent low oxygen levels that cause algae blooms and degradation of the downstream water quality. Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, City of Spokane, County of Spokane, Inland Empire Paper Company, Kaiser Trentwood, and Avista Utilities will be required to meet some of the most stringent phosphorus levels in the country. Draft discharge permits from the Department of Ecology will be issued in the near future that will require effluent levels for phosphorus that reach the limits of technology. The District will be faced with at least one more upgrade of the treatment plant to maximize phosphorus removal. Long range plans suggest that the best alternative is not to discharge during the growing season and distribute the highly treated effluent through “purple pipe” to wetlands or irrigation destinations. For additional information contact Lee Mellish at 922-9016.

SECURITY OF FACILITIES- Wells, reservoirs, sewer manholes, valves in the streets, sewer lift stations, wastewater treatment plants and other water and sewer facilities are all vulnerable to unauthorized access and vandalism. Security measures are in place and improvements will continue to assure these facilities are safe. One of the best security measures is the eyes and ears of local residents.

If you see or suspect suspicious activity at any of the district facilities, please call 9-1-1 and report the incident.

SHORELINE ACTIVITIES- Spokane County regulates certain activities within 50' of the ordinary high water mark, including cutting of trees and installing docks. Before conducting any construction near the lake, contact Spokane County Building Department and Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding permits. For more information contact Spokane County shorelines and critical areas coordinator Bill Moser at 477-7154.

ANNEXATIONS- The District over the past year has annexed three areas to the District. The Spokane County Regional Park near the Ranger's residence, the picnic and swim area of approximately 40 acres was annexed in 2009. Recently the annexation of the Heggem property on E. Appleway of approximately 9 acres has been completed. Nearing final approval is the Woodard property on E. Appleway of approximately 6 acres.

HOW TO READ YOUR BILL- The District bills in 4 quarterly cycles per year. 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 10.08 plus tax for 240 gallons per day. Water usage in excess of 240 gallons per day is charged a higher rate. Most residential homes exceed the 240 gallons per day during the summer irrigation season. For more detailed explanation of the bill, to the District web site at www.libertylake.org or call the District accountant Kathy at 922-5443 ex. 225.

WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE- The Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District Watershed Citizen Advisory Committee plans to meet June 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at the District Administration offices, 22510 E. Mission. Discussion items will include Watershed Watch, Watershed Pledge, P-free fertilizer, water conservation, DOE award, NALMS, shoreline activities and construction. The meeting is open to the public. For additional information contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ex. 230.

LAKE AND STREAM MONITORING 2010- Ongoing Lake water quality monitoring conducted by Washington State University and the District is continuing this summer. Liberty Creek and other tributaries to the lake are also monitored. A real time monitoring station can be checked at the District web site at www.libertylake.org. Click on Lake Protection / Liberty Creek.

MILFOIL TREATMENT- Chemical treatment of the Eurasian watermilfoil will likely occur again this summer. This invasive aquatic plant has been found in several locations around the lake. Ongoing maintenance will be required to prevent the plant from overtaking the lake. Surveys will be conducted to determine the extent of this year's growth. Lake residents will be notified prior to treatment.

SPOKANE-RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER- Do you know the source of your drinking water? It's the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer stretching from the Pend Orielle Lake in North Idaho to the Little Spokane River north of the City of Spokane. This aquifer is one of the largest in the world. This resource is not unlimited and must be protected from contamination and overuse. The aquifer serves as drinking water for over 400,000 people in Idaho and Spokane area. The Spokane Aquifer Joint Board, comprised of 20 water utility organizations drawing water from the aquifer, has recently published the updated "Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas". The atlas is a great source of information with pictures and maps outlining the aquifer, its formation and use. The atlas is available free of charge at the District Administration office. For more information about the aquifer contact Erin Casci, Program Manager, SAJB, at (509) 998-7898

WATER RIGHTS- Public water systems are required to have water rights that are issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) to withdraw and use water from the aquifer. The water right designates how much water can be withdrawn from a well. The District has water rights that allows for a prescribed amount of water to be withdrawn and used. A water utility cannot exceed its water right without obtaining additional rights. The DOE is presently not issuing new water rights from the aquifer. The District has a limited amount of water rights for the future. To preserve these rights, water conservation will be emphasized, especially during the summer irrigation season.

NO FEEDING WATERFOWL- The District enacted a resolution requesting no feeding of waterfowl including gulls, geese and ducks to reduce pollutants to the lake, control waterborne parasites such as swimmers itch, and reduction of fecal matter on community properties. Watch for signs that are posted throughout the District providing information on the no feeding policy. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife also requests that feeding of birds and wildlife is not healthy for the animals and is discouraged.

STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT- Dan Grogg is the District Chief Operator of the District's Water Reclamation Plant located on North Harvard Road. Dan is a graduate of Boise State Wastewater Treatment Program in 1983. Dan started his professional career at the Meridian Idaho Wastewater Treatment Facility. He is certified by the State of Washington as a Wastewater Treatment Manager III. Dan has been with the District for 27 years. He and his staff have been awarded the Department of Ecology Outstanding Treatment Plant in Washington Award 4 times. The most recent is for 2009. Dan is married to Deb and they have one daughter and one grandchild. Dan likes to fish and work in the yard in his spare time.

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. Please don't fill the meter box with material that will absorb water and freeze. For additional information contact John Yake at 922-5443 ex. 227.

BIOSOLIDS DISPOSAL- The biosolids "sludge" generated at the water reclamation plant are now being transported to large farms near Mansfield Washington. The company called Boulder Park is accepting biosolids from over 15 treatment facilities across the state. The biosolids are being used as a soil amendment with some nutrient value. The District generates 2 tons of biosolids per day which must be disposed of in licensed sites.

YOUR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM- The District's water system is licensed by the Washington State Department of Health and must meet certain standards of construction, maintenance, frequency of water sampling, employ state certified Operators, provide certain water availability and quantity, source control, wellhead protection, cross-connection control, fire protection, water conservation and facility security. All water at Liberty Lake is from wells in the aquifer. Water quality is considered excellent and no additional chemicals are added. Reservoirs are periodically inspected by licensed divers and repairs and cleaning are conducted. Valves in the mains are exercised to prevent them from seizing. Whats in the water? For the answer call John Yake, Chief Operator, at 922-5443 ex. 227.