BULK RATE
US POSTAGE PAID
LIBERTY LAKE, WA
PERMIT #3

LIBERTY LAKE RESIDENT

LIBERTY LAKE, WA 99019

NEWSLETTER
May 2012

Water Reclamation Plant- The District's wastewater treatment facility is located on North Harvard Road just north of I-90. The plant is designed at 2 million gallons per day. Presently the daily flow is approximately 850,000 gallons per day. The Washington State Department of Ecology issues a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge to the Spokane River. The most recent permit issued last July 2011 requires stringent new levels of phosphorus removal. To meet these new standards will require construction of expensive filtration equipment that must be up and running in 2018. Estimated cost of this upgrade is $10 million. The long range plan of the District is to discontinue discharging to the river and go to land application, possibly to the Saltese Flats. However, to go to land application, the facility must be upgraded to treat wastewater to a class A standard. The NPDES permit also requires all dischargers to the Spokane River in Washington to form a Toxic Task Force to include environmental organizations, tribes, regulators and others to study Polychlorinated Biphenyl's (PCB's). Manufacture and use of PCB's ended in the mid 70's in the U.S., but the residual is ubiquitous in the environment. The toxics task force is in the process of creating a business entity to administer the Task Force

1302102
Friday, May 04, 2012 12:28:33 PM

requirements. A PCB workshop is being planned for June 5 and 6th at the Gonzaga Law School in Spokane. The Toxic Task Force will also hire a facilitator / technical manager to begin review of existing data on PCB's, develop a public education program on PCB's and create a comprehensive plan to reduce PCB's and other toxics in the river. In addition, dischargers will conduct testing within their systems to determine sources of PCB's. Testing for PCB's at the levels required in the permit cannot be done locally. In fact, there are only a couple of labs in North America that can test to the levels required, i.e. parts per quadrillion. The District is sending samples to a lab in Vancouver B.C. at a cost of nearly $1000 per sample. Additional testing is also required for dioxins, metals and other elements. The increase cost in sampling alone in 2012 is over $40,000. How small is parts per quadrillion? The Vancouver lab gave the analogy that a parts per quadrillion is like taking the entire area of Canada and place a dollar bill on the ground. The dollar bill would represent the one part per quadrillion. The toxics task force has 5 years to produce a plan for the reduction of PCB's in the river system. The net result of District's treatment facility upgrades and increase in sampling will result in increased sewer rates. The Board of Commissioners, LLSWD, have authorized a $2.33 increase effective June 1, 2012. For additional information contact Lee Mellish at 922-9016.

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” inch of water per week is all that is needed. To measure your water use, place an empty tuna can on the yard while watering. When the tuna can is full, 1 inch of water has been used. Calculate the time to fill the can and adjust watering. 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 are based on 240 gallons per day consumption. Water use in excess of 240 gallons per day is charged a premium rate. For questions and additional information regarding watering or on the District moisture sensor incentive program contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ext. 230.

Beavers and Park Trail Improvements- 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. The benefits of beaver have demonstrated: 1) an elevated ground water table upstream of the dam, which improves vegetation condition, reduces water velocities, reduces stream bank erosion, reactivates floodplains, and improves fish habitat, 2) a reduction in sedimentation downstream of the dam, 3) increased water storage and groundwater recharge (more cold water

springs recharging streams, lakes and aquifers), 4) improved water quality, and 5) acceleration in the natural restoration of degraded or lost riparian systems. On a more problematic level, the engineering works of beavers often conflict with the plans of humans. Complaints about blocked culverts, flooding, inundation, and tree damage have sharply increased as beaver and humans overlap. These issues have occurred at the Liberty Lake County Park and they are a concern of management of the Spokane County Parks Department. Today, the main trail system and the connection to the Edith Hansen Trail are threatened by beaver dam flooding. To avoid conflicts, in 2010, the Spokane County Parks Department, the Washington Trails Association, the Backcountry Horsemen completed a new by-pass trail to avoid future flooding caused by beaver activity. The new trail was designed to allow the beaver to continue their work for the benefit of the watershed of Liberty Lake and the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer. Currently, a Habitat Management Plan and additional trail work are being planned by the Parks Department. The trail work will consist of drainage improvements, minor re-routes, and tread work. There are also plans for habitat restoration (planting of native trees and shrubs along the trail corridor to be closed), construction of new by-pass trail bridge, as well as high quality interpretive signs illustrating wetland/beaver ecology. For more information contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ext. 230.

Direct Debit Monthly Bill Payment- Would you like to be billed on a monthly basis for your regular water and sewer charges? The monthly billing is available to those using a "direct-debit" payment. The regular charge for each month is based on the number of days in the month. Payment will be debited from your bank account on the last day of the month (or the next business day if it falls on a weekend). You will continue to receive a quarterly billing showing your usage and any overages that may have occurred. Payment for those charges can also be done by direct debit on a quarterly basis. Download the Direct Debit Payment Form from the District's web site www.libertylake.org. Print the form and fill in the required information. Return a signed form to the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, 22510 E. Mission Ave., Liberty Lake, WA 99019. For additional information call Tricia Poitevint at 922-5443 ext. 221.

Meter Reading- The District reads meters 4 times per year. Customers are required to keep the meter vault clear of obstructions such as shrubbery, debris, machinery, vehicles, boats, etc. Residents with meters in back yards must provide access to meter reader. The District on occasion will trim shrubs to access the meter. If a meter reader experiences a problem a door hanger will be left describing the problem. If you choose to read your own meter, contact Kathy at 922-5443 ext. 225.

Watershed Watch- A column titled “Watershed Watch” is published twice a month in the *Liberty Lake Splash.* The column has information regarding the three major watersheds a Liberty Lake; the watershed of the lake, river and aquifer. Articles are written with the help from community volunteers. Let us know your ideas about how to protect these valuable watersheds. Call BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ext. 230.

Lake Levels- District manages the lake level through the outlet channel gates located on Inlet Drive. The District under a memorandum of agreement from the Washington State Department of Ecology also maintains the outlet channel and sumps. This spring lake levels reached the adjudicated high water level of 2049.51. The three gates were opened to capacity for several weeks to allow discharge of lake water.

Water Main Looping Project- During the summer of 2011, a 48 inch casing was bored under the freeway just east of the Appleway overpass for the purpose of installing a water line under the freeway. The water line was installed this spring and is now in operation. The area north of the freeway is now served by two water mains reducing the risk of a complete water outage if a problem occurred with a single line.

Port of Entry- The District under contract with the Washington State Department of Transportation bored under the freeway and installed a water line for the new port of entry at the state line. This project was funded by DOT.

Water to County Park- Plans are underway to install a District water line from Mackenzie Bay to the Spokane County Park to serve not only the park but several residential homes near the park. The park presently receives water from the Greenridge Homeowners Association, which is the housing development high on the east side of the lake. This project will be funded and constructed by Greenstone Homes and Spokane County Parks.

Pharmaceuticals and Toxics Disposal- Don't flush drugs or toxics down the toilet or dispose of these chemicals into street drains or water bodies. The District's Water Reclamation Plant is a biological plant and not designed to remove these chemicals. The Spokane County Transfer Station at 3941 N.Sullivan will take toxics such as paint, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, etc. free of charge. Chemicals and toxics discharged into street drains could find their way into the aquifer or other bodies of water. For pharmaceuticals, utilize the local law enforcement special disposal days when advertised.

Irrigation Sensor Incentive Program-The District has an irrigation sensor incentive program for District customers and businesses. The idea is to promote water conservation by “fine tuning” of irrigation systems by using moisture sensors to control the irrigation system electronics resulting in efficient watering. To learn more about this program contact BiJay Adams at 922-5443 ext. 230.

1302102
Friday, May 04, 2012 12:28:34 PM