

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

WE ARE CELEBRATING 40 YEARS! 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. The District's formation was prompted in the 1960s when residents of Liberty Lake noted that nuisance blue-green algae blooms were becoming more noticeable and aesthetically displeasing each year. By late 1960's, tons of decaying aquatic weeds and dried algal mats were being removed from the lake. This prompted the residents to take action about the lakes' health and quality of water, and they turned to the Property Owner's Association to help remedy the problem. In 1973, the residents took initiative to petition, vote, and elect commissioners to represent a special purpose sewer district. Since 1973, the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District has taken many measures to protect our three watersheds; the lake, aquifer, and river to maintain the aesthetic beauty that has brought many residents to the area. Help us celebrate 40 years serving people and the environment! For more information on the District and its history visit our website www.libertylake.org and visit the About Us page.

FAREWELL TO DR. F. LEE MELLISH- Dr. Lee Mellish has retired after 20 years as the District's General Manager. Lee led by example, taking action to improve the preservation of our three watersheds; the lake, river and aquifer. Lee's leadership was directly in line with the District's mission to provide our customers with pure drinking water, effectively treated wastewater, and quality environmental preservation. He assured that the District maintained the highest level of customer service and fiscal responsibility. A great deal of gratitude goes out to Lee for his service to the District, its customers, and the various boards and committees for which he served throughout the state.

A NOTE FROM THE NEW MANAGER- My name is Bijay Adams and I would like to introduce myself as the new General Manager for the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District. Though I have some big shoes to fill, and the District is faced with some large challenges ahead, I look forward to working on these challenges with the community and our customers. I have had the pleasure serving the District and its customers for the past 11 years and I look forward to continuing the District's dedication to customer service while providing the highest quality of drinking water, effectively treated wastewater, and environmental preservation. If you have a question, or if there is anything I can help you with, you can contact me directly at 922-9016.

CREDIT CARDS AND BILL PAYMENT- We are very happy to announce that e-billing and online payments are now available on our website www.libertylake.org. The new system is easy to use and allows you to receive and pay your sewer & water use bill online. E-billing provides convenient payment options, 24-7 access to billing and payment history, reduces clutter and paper filing; impacting our planet in a positive way. Please help us go green by viewing and paying bills online. For more information contact Tricia Poitevint at 922-5443 ext. 221.



Go Green: View and Pay your bills online!

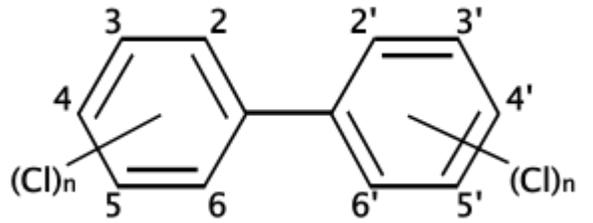
WATER RESOURCE / LAKE PROTECTION MANAGER HIRED- The District has hired Jeremy Jenkins as the Water Resource / Lake Protection Manager. Jeremy will perform various activities of lake monitoring, stormwater controls, water conservation, Geographic Information Systems, education, and watershed protection. Jeremy comes from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality in Coeur d'Alene and has extensive experience in lake, stream and watershed studies. Jeremy replaces Bijay Adams who provided lake protection services the past 11 years.

SECURITY OF FACILITIES- Wells, reservoirs, sewer manholes, valves, sewer lift stations, water reclamation plants and other water and sewer utilities 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 district residents. If you see or suspect suspicious activity at any of the district facilities, please call 9-1-1 and report the incident.

WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY UPGRADES- 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 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 \$12.6 million. Planning is underway for Phase II upgrade to the water reclamation facility as required by the District's discharge permit and funding options are now being explored. The long range plan of the District is to discontinue discharging to the river and go to land

application. However, to go to land application, the facility must be upgraded to treat wastewater to a class A standard. For additional information contact Bijay Adams at 922-9016.

POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) - The NPDES permit also requires all dischargers to the Spokane River in Washington to participate in the Toxic Task Force, a group that includes 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 Toxic Task Force is involved in reviewing existing data on PCB's, developing a public education program on PCB's and creating 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 District's treatment facility upgrades and increase in sampling will ultimately result in increased sewer rates in the future. For additional information contact Bijay Adams at 922-9016.

BIOSOLIDS DISPOSAL- Did you know that the biosolids "sludge" generated at the water reclamation plant are 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.



PHARMACEUTICALS AND TOXICS DISPOSAL- Don't flush drugs or toxics down the toilet or dispose of these chemicals into street drains, sewers, drywells or at self-service car washes which could contaminate surface or groundwater. The District's Water Reclamation Plant is a biological plant and not designed to remove these chemicals. The Spokane County Transfer Station at 3941 North Sullivan will take toxics such as oil, antifreeze, paint, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, etc. free of charge. For additional information contact the Spokane County recycle hotline (509) 625-6800. For pharmaceuticals, utilize the local law enforcement special disposal days when advertised.

HELP US KEEP THE WIPES OUT OF OUR PIPES- Did you know that "flushable" does not mean "Flushable"? The toilets in our homes are designed to accept water, human waste, toilet paper, and nothing else! Many other items are advertised as "flushable", but when they are flushed down the toilet they don't disintegrate. They can plug up house drains, service lines, sewer mains, pumps, and treatment facilities. This causes backups that are expensive to clean up, and increases the maintenance costs for the public sewer system. To avoid these problems remember, your "flushable" belong in the trash, not the sewer.



FERTILIZER PROGRAM- 2013 is the 8th 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 Monday, July 1st, 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 Friday, August 30th, 2010. For more information contact Tricia Poitevint at 922-5443 ext. 221.



SPOKANE-RATHDRUM PRAIRIE AQUIFER- Do you know the source of your drinking water? It's the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer stretching from the Pend Oreille 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



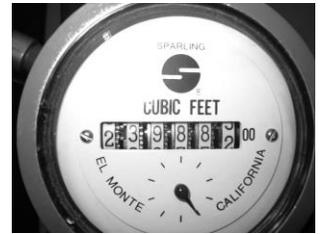
be protected from contamination and overuse. The aquifer serves as drinking water for over 500,000 people in Idaho and Spokane area. For more information about our aquifer visit the Spokane Aquifer Joint Board at www.spokaneaquifer.org.

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 needed. Reservoirs are periodically inspected by licensed divers and repairs and cleaning are conducted. Valves in the mains are exercised to prevent them from seizing. What's in the water? For the answer call John Yake, Chief Operator, at 922-5443 ex. 227.



IS 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. 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.

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. 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. For more information contact Kathy Millick at 922-5443 ext. 225.



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. 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 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 Jeremy Jenkins at 922-5443 ext. 230.

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 Jeremy Jenkins 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, maintains the lake level, outlet channel and infiltration sumps. This spring the gates were opened to capacity for several weeks to allow discharge of lake water.



WATERSHED WATCH- A column titled "Watershed Watch" is published monthly in the *Liberty Lake Splash*. The column has information regarding the three major watersheds at 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 Jeremy Jenkins at 922-5443 ext. 230.

LAKE AND STREAM MONITORING 2013- 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.



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 performed 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 922-9016.

DISTRICT WEB SITE- Check out the district’s web site at www.libertylake.org – for information regarding rates, billing, staff, water/sewer service, lake protection, lake/stream level and much, much more.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER- Would you like this newsletter electronically via email? If so, please contact Tricia Poitevint at 922-5443 ext. 221.