

City of North Bonneville Newsletter

A Message from the Mayor's Desk

I just talked about the yard debris dumping areas in the June newsletter but in light of a recent change it's worth revisiting the topic here.

First off, we are extremely lucky to have several locations in our city where we can dump our lawn clippings, small tree and brush trimmings less than 3 inches in diameter with a maximum length of 3 feet, and other naturally occurring yard debris. The vast majority of other cities do not provide this option and it is a great deal for all of us, but in order to maintain this benefit it falls to all of us to use these areas for the purpose for which they were intended and in accordance with the rules, not as a general dumping location.

The largest of these areas is on Whiskey Flat Road near the entrance to our Public Works shop and wastewater treatment facility. This area was recently closed due to high volume dumping by commercial users and a flood of large trees, stumps and branches as well as a large amount of garbage.

Our Public Works crew has made an area inside their facility available to accept appropriate materials, but it is inside the fence and the gate is only open Monday through Friday from 8am to 3 pm. We are working to find a better solution but until we are able to do so, please use the existing areas and only dump the allowed materials.

I would also like to reiterate the importance of properly disposing of invasive plants, particularly ivy. If your landscaping includes ivy, please remember to dispose of it in your trash can, a landfill or transfer station rather than one of the yard debris disposal areas around town. These areas are meant for non-invasive yard debris only, not invasive plants like ivy, which have no place outside our yards and can cause damage and eventual death to our trees and native plant species. Please do not dump them with the rest of your yard waste.

On another note, you may have noticed a lot of road work happening on Evergreen Drive between Highway 14 and the green bridge over Hamilton Creek. This is utility work being done before that section of road is resurfaced in early September. We will do our best to keep 1 lane open throughout the rest of the project and apologize for the inconvenience that comes with this road rehabilitation. Please be patient with any workers involved in this project.

As always, we welcome your input and ideas regarding your city. Our number is 427-8182 or you can always contact me via email at don@northbonneville.net.

August 2016



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City Council Meetings

August 9th & 23rd at 7pm

The City Hall is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m.

GORGE DAYS REPORT

The Skamania County Chamber of Commerce wants to thank the community of North Bonneville for supporting a wonderful Gorge Days weekend last month. The drizzle kept some of the car owners away but those who attended the festivities had a great time. We had over 50 vehicles of every age, make and color at the car show and hundreds of people enjoying the beauty of North Bonneville while shopping garage sales and taking part in the many activities in City Park.

A big thank you goes to the Gorge Days planning committee: Julie Stevens, Fern Armstrong, Darlene Caird, Tina Smith, Cindy Medlin, Don Stevens, Marfa Scheratski and EJ Toppel. Thanks also to Richard Lafayette and the entire North Bonneville Public Works crew for all of their hard work ensuring the park looked great. Please visit our website, www.gorgedays.net for a full list of volunteers. Also, more than 25 local businesses and individuals stepped up to sponsor trophies which the winners were thrilled to receive.

An extra special thank you goes to Darlene Caird for her many years of organizing the citywide garage sales that take place during Gorge Days. She has taken on this task for at least 15 years and with her super diligent efficiency, the garage sales have grown and are an integral part of Gorge Days. Darlene will be stepping down in 2017 and we are seeking someone to volunteer for that role. If you are interested in joining the Gorge Days planning committee (an extremely fun group of folks!), please call Casey at the Chamber, 509-427-8911.

All in all, Gorge Days was a fabulous celebration of North Bonneville and we look forward to next year. **Mark your calendars for Friday-Saturday, July 7-8, 2017!**



MOSQUITO PREVENTION

Mosquitoes lay up to 250 eggs at a time in still water, which will hatch in 7 to 15 days. During the off season, mosquitoes can lay dormant for up to one year. If standing water is eliminated weekly, many mosquitoes will be kept from breeding in the first place. So if you are anti-mosquito, then start by getting rid of these breeding grounds in your yard.

Ways you can help eliminate mosquito breeding grounds:

- Dispose of old tires, buckets, ceramic pots and other containers in your yard that may collect water.
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps that hold water.
- Drill holes into the bottom of tire swings.
- At least once per week, empty standing water from containers, including birdfeeders, on your property.
- Drill holes in the bottom of recycling containers that are left outdoors. Drainage holes in the sides of containers allow sufficient water to collect in which mosquitoes may breed.
- Clean clogged roof gutters, particularly if the leaves from surrounding trees have a tendency to plug up the drains. Flooded roof gutters are easily overlooked but can produce hundreds of mosquitoes each season.
- Turn over plastic wading pools when not in use.
- Turn over wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Store boats covered or upside down, or remove rainwater weekly.
- Aerate ornamental pools or stock them with fish. Water gardens are fashionable but become major mosquito producers if they are allowed to stagnate.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used. A swimming pool that is left for a month can produce enough mosquitoes to infest an entire neighborhood. Be aware that mosquitoes may also breed in the water that collects on swimming pool covers.
- Keep drains, ditches and culverts free of grass clippings, weeds and trash so water will drain properly.
- Fill in low areas on your property to eliminate standing water. Ponds or streams where fish are present or the water is disturbed by current or wave action do not produce many mosquitoes; standing water is more of a breeding area. So if you have mosquitoes, the standing water in your backyard has got to go. This will be the start of your anti-mosquito campaign! Next step ...effective outdoor mosquito control that can help you enjoy season-long protection from the dangers of mosquitoes.

CITY OF NORTH BONNEVILLE
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report
For the Year 2015

This report was developed July 11, 2016 - representing water evaluations in 2015

Dear Citizens:

The City's 2015 Annual Water Quality Report is now available. This report is designed to inform you about the water quality and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the City's water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions about this report please contact Steve Hasson, City Administrator, at (509) 427-8182. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality.

The Source

Our water source is called the BSA Aquifer, which extends under the Columbia River to the Oregon side and flows towards the Pacific Ocean. Our water system relies upon one [1] well, two [2] reservoirs and approximately 43,200 feet of pipeline that extends throughout the City. As of December 2015 we served approximately 350 connections.

The Report

The City staff routinely monitors the drinking water for contaminants in keeping with Federal and State water quality standards. These water test results are from water samples collected at the City's well site. The state does not require the city to monitor all possible contaminate sources every year because their concentrations are not likely to vary considerably from year to year. Thus, some of the City's water quality evaluations occur at time intervals of more than one year.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water has some level of impurity. It is important to remember that the presence of impurities in our drinking water does not necessarily pose a health risk.

The Results

A copy of the water lab results can be found at the City Hall. The lab testing was done by BSK Associates Engineers Laboratories.

Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For information about potential health effects from various water impurities please contact the Environmental Protection Agency's [EPA] Safe Drinking Water Hotline by calling 1-800-426-4791.

Especially Vulnerable Persons

Some people may be sensitive to water impurities and more so than the general population. Accordingly, persons with compromised immune systems, those undergoing chemotherapy, and persons with organ transplants may be at greater health risk from drinking water possessing even minimal contaminate levels. Also certain youth and elderly may be impacted by minor levels of water contamination. Individuals with these type of vulnerabilities should seek drinking water advice from their health care providers. Guidelines to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline noted above.

General Information

The City does not add fluoride to the water.

The City's water contains natural high levels of iron and manganese. When these minerals are exposed to the air they form a brown or black stain. The Sodium Silicate that is used for the corrosion control helps to eliminate this condition; additionally, there over-the-counter products available to remove these type of stains.

Corrosion Control

The Federal Government and Washington State require the City to use a corrosion control inhibitor due to our water's pH value. To abate corrosion issues in the water distribution system the City uses Sodium Silicate. This application process is effective at minimizing corrosion associated with a variety of metals, including Lead, Zinc and Copper.

The City staff disinfects the drinking water by adding a small amount of Chlorine at the City well. This Chlorine application assures the City will meet safe drinking water standards.

The City is required to test the drinking water monthly for microbiological contaminants. The test results in 2015 met all water quality standards.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. In August of 2015 we tested for the presence of Nitrates and found the levels were well below the State's MCL. The City is required to test for Nitrates annually and the next test is scheduled for August 2016. The City also tested for total Haloacetic Acids, Chloroform and Total Trihalomethane [THM] in August of 2015 and found their presence was well below State's limits.

The City is required to test for different chemicals, microbes and bacterium at certain intervals of time. In 2016 the City water will be sampled for Manganese [August 2016]; Iron [August 2016]; Coliform [monthly 2016]; Trihalomethane [October 2016]; Halo-Acetic Acids [October 2016]; and Complete Inorganic [August 2016]. The City will also test for Radio nuclides such as Gross Alpha [August 2016] and Radium 228 [August 2016].

System Improvements

The City takes pride in the ability to provide our citizens with clean, quality drinking water. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we make ongoing improvements to our water system intended to benefit all of our customers. The City plans to make improvements to the water system in keeping with the City's adopted capital facility plan.

Current examples of the City's water improvement efforts include: replacement of a section of water pipe made from Transit material that is susceptible to breakage, replacing it with a Ductile Iron water pipe [September 2016]. The City's ability with assistance from the City of Vancouver to massage open and close a 14" water shutoff valve that had been frozen open for many years [May 2016]. Installation of a new telemetry system that provides the City's well house the opportunity to communicate property with the City's two [2] water reservoirs [April 2016].

Water Conservation Tips

Check for drips and leaks. Slow drips and running toilets wastes thousands of gallons of water each year.

Leaky toilet:

- (1) Remove tank lid (the water is clean until it enters the bowl);
- (2) Add food coloring or dye, replace lid, don't flush;
- (3) After an hour, check the bowl to see if the water is colored. If it is, even slightly, then you have a leak that needs fixing.

Leaky faucet:

A leaking or dripping faucet is frequently the result of a bad rubber washer. The washer on a sink is typically located under the handle, and is relatively easy to replace. Check with the local hardware store or home centers for parts and instructions. You may also find instructions on the internet.

Unusually high usage:

Do you actually have a leak or are you just using a considerable amount of water? Many customers are surprised to find out how much water they use. You can initiate the following steps to discover a mysterious leak.

- (1) Locate your water meter. Most meters are about 14 feet back from the street curb (at the end of the city's right-of-way).
- (2) Turn off all faucets inside and outside of your home.
- (3) Check the meter. If no water is being used the meter will not be moving. If the meter is moving and all faucets are turned off you may have a leak.

Our customers are responsible for fixing their leaks located on their property. Specifically, the property owner is responsible for the water line from the meter up to and through the residence. Likewise, the City is responsible for the care and maintenance of the water line from the street up to the meter. If you have questions or concerns about the City's water system please call City Hall 427-8182 or Public Works 427-8200