



CITY OF BINGEN NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2011

2011 Community Pride Weekend

Do you need more space in your garage, shed, basement, attic and backyard? What about your front yard?

Community Pride Weekend is scheduled for the weekend of April 29 through May 1. The drop off site for junk and recyclable materials will be open as follows:

Friday, April 29	12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 30	10:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 1	10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Do not bring items to the site prior to 12:00 noon on Friday, April 29.

A voluntary cash donation is accepted at the Community Pride collection site.

The site is located just east of the Bingen Public Works shop on the north side of Lakeview Blvd., across from the Bingen Point Industrial Park.

The following items may be brought to the site:

- Reusable household items
- Scrap metal
- Recyclable paper, metal, plastic & glass
- Building materials
- Used household appliances
- Brush, tree limbs, lawn, garden & yard waste
- Electronic items including computers, monitors, cell phones, printers, televisions, telephones

Used tires will be accepted for a fee.

Household wastes and household hazardous waste cannot be accepted.

Transfer stations at BZ Corners, Dallesport or Goldendale will accept up to five tires in each

pickup load of garbage. In addition, the transfer stations will accept household hazardous wastes.

Call Howard's Wrecking Yard at 541-490-1318 for "unwanted car" removal and pickup in Bingen. Must have title or "junk vehicle" designation by local law enforcement.

Senior citizens or those with no vehicle for transporting unwanted items can call the Chamber of Commerce to arrange for pickup. Call 509-493-3630.

City Yard & Garden Debris Pickup

The city is coordinating our spring yard and garden debris pickup with Community Pride Weekend. Bingen residents can call city hall at 509-493-2122 to arrange for ***yard and garden debris pickup***. Yard and garden debris pickup by the city is not available to businesses (including apartments). However, the Community Pride collection site is open to everyone.

City crew will collect yard and garden debris Friday, April 22 through Friday, April 29. Yard and garden debris can be placed curbside during the week but no later than 7:00 a.m. on Friday, April 29. You must call city hall to have the yard and garden debris picked up.

**Call Bingen City Hall
at 509-493-2122
to arrange for yard and garden debris
pickup April 22 through April 29.**

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Stormwater drains lead directly to streams, rivers or lakes. Household stormwater pollution happens when contaminants from our homes and cars go down the storm drain. This can happen through illegal dumping into the storm drains, or more commonly, when rainwater washes pollutants and other debris from our yards and driveways to the storm drain and into our streams, lakes, and wetlands. Common sources of household pollution are motor oil and antifreeze left on driveways, soapy water from car washing, fertilizers and pesticides in lawns, and pet waste left in yards.

What Can You Do?

You can protect our water quality by following the simple effective steps in this article. Your actions make a difference. You have a direct impact on the health of our natural water ways.

Around the House

Properly dispose of household chemicals. Never wash or pour chemicals, cleaners, or solvents into the storm drain. It is toxic to aquatic life and it is also illegal. Take antifreeze, solvents, gas, brake fluids, and other hazardous substances to an approved location. These materials can be taken to one of the Klickitat County transfer stations in BZ Corners, Dallesport, Goldendale or the Roosevelt drop-box site. There is no charge to dispose of household hazardous wastes at the transfer stations.

Sweep your driveway. Sweep up debris instead of hosing off or pressure washing your driveway. Not only is the sediment harmful, but there can also be residue from vehicles on the driveway.

Working on Vehicles

Wash your car on a lawn or at a licensed facility. Car wash water contains dirt, road grime, heavy metals, oils and soaps which are toxic to fish and aquatic life. Sending soap runoff down the driveway and into a storm drain is not only harmful to the environment; it is a violation of state and federal laws.

Maintain your vehicle. The liquids from leaky cars are harmful to aquatic life and are washed directly into the storm drain every time it rains. Test to see if your vehicle is leaking by placing clean cardboard

on the ground under your engine and checking it the next day. Repair all leaks as soon as discovered.

Properly dispose of oil and other auto waste at an approved waste facility. Don't pour liquids down the drain.

Clean up spills. Use kitty litter, sawdust, or commercial absorbent pads to dry up any spilled liquid, then sweep it up and place it in the garbage. Don't wash it into the street or storm drain.

In the Lawn & Garden

Pick up after your pets. The rainwater can wash bacteria and parasites from pet waste into the storm drain which flows untreated into our natural waterways.

Avoid pesticides and herbicides when possible. Not only is it better for the health of our lakes and streams, but it is also better for the health of your family. If you must use pesticides, use them sparingly and only where needed to ensure excess will not be washed into the storm drain. Always follow the directions on the label.

Use organic, time-release fertilizers. These fertilizers slowly release nutrients to your lawn, reducing the amount of pollutants washed into our waterways.

Dispose of yard waste properly. Compost yard debris or have it hauled away. Yard debris can release excess nutrients which promotes algae growth in the waterways.

Use a mulching mower. By using a mulching lawnmower can you decrease your use of fertilizers by 25 percent.

Around the Neighborhood

Pick up litter. Clean up any trash to reduce the change of litter or contaminants entering the storm water system.

Report pollution. It is illegal to dump chemicals or other materials in the storm drain. If you notice illegal dumping, call the City of Bingen 509-493-2122.

Educate neighbors. Share the importance of adopting stormwater pollution prevention practices with your neighbors.

Parking in Bingen

Most of the parking in downtown Bingen is 2 hours parking with a few parking spaces designated for 15 minute parking. When parking, look around for signage that may indicate 2 hours parking, 15 minute parking, no parking, etc. Parking violations can result in a parking ticket. The city has provided a parking lot for daily long-term downtown parking. It is located at 400 W. Steuben and is designated as public parking.

Certain types of vehicles are not allowed to be parked along city streets. These include

- Vehicles with flat tires
- Vehicles that do not operate
- Vehicles with expired license plates/tags
- Vehicles without license plates
- Boats
- Utility trailers
- Snowmobiles
- Recreational vehicles
- Motor homes
- Camper (pickup)
- Trucks and/or trailers that exceed 20 feet in length or 30,000 pounds gross vehicle capacity

Vegetation Management

It is a property owner's responsibility to keep vegetation, including brush and trees, from growing into the city right-of-way (streets or sidewalks). Please keep all brush, trees, and any other vegetation trimmed back so that it is not growing into the streets or sidewalks.

If the city has to remove vegetation that is growing into the right-of-way, the property will be billed for the associated expenses.

Take the opportunity of Community Pride Weekend to check your property and trim back the vegetation. Keep sidewalks and rights-of-way open for pedestrians and vehicles.

Hydrant Flushing

The City of Bingen Fire Department will open fire hydrant valves for flushing on May 11th and May 18th. Opening the hydrants enhances water quality by flushing sediment from the main line pipes, verifies the property operation of hydrants and valves, and

ensure that the hydrant is operational in case of a fire emergency.

When a hydrant is opened, there will be temporary incidences of discolored water while the fine sediment particles are flushed.



Some things to be aware of:

- If tap water is used during flushing, it may be discolored by fine sediment particles dislodged from the main line. If you see discolored water, shut off the tap and wait several minutes. Then check the clarity by running cold water for a few minutes, allowing new water to work its way into your pipes. If the water is still unclear, repeat this process. In some cases, there might be slight discoloration for a few hours. The discoloration affects only the appearance of the water; it does not affect water quality. There are no health hazards associated with discolored water.
- Avoid washing laundry until water runs clear at the tap.
- If pressure or volume seems low, check your faucet screens for trapped particles.

If you are still experiencing problems with water quality or pressure after a flushing event, please contact the City of Bingen at 509-493-2122.

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Bingen Council Members and Staff

Betty J. Barnes, Mayor
Sandi Dickey, Council Member
Laura Mann, Council Member
Guillermo Fisch, Council Member
Catherine Kiewit, Council Member
Clinton Bryan, Council Member

Jan Brending, City Administrator
Dena Riggleman, Deputy Clerk
David Spratt, Public Works Superintendent
Jay Hicks, Public Works Maintenance
Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Operator
James Buckland, Treatment Plant Operator

City of Bingen
P.O. Box 607, 112 N. Ash
Bingen, Washington 98605
Telephone: 509-493-2122
Fax: 509-493-1391
E-mail: bingen@gorge.net

City of Bingen
PO Box 607
Bingen WA 98605

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U.S. Postage
PAID
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Boxholder
Bingen, WA 98605