



City of Bingen Newsletter -- June 2004

New Police Chief Hired

Richard P. Cortese has been hired as the new police chief for the Bingen-White Salmon Police Department effective June 15, 2004. Cortese last served as Lieutenant for the Clyde Hill Police Department in the Seattle area. The Police Chief can be reached at 509-493-1177.

Construction Project Nears End

The construction work on the Highway 14 project from the Hood River Bridge to the east city limits of Bingen is nearing completion. All construction and clean up work is expected to be completed by July 1.

The City is very thankful to its citizens and business owners for their patience during this construction project.

Building Permits Required

Permits are required for a variety of construction activities on private property, including building, mechanical, plumbing, and demolition. Property owners and contractors must obtain the appropriate permit(s) before starting any work. Owners and contractors who start work without the necessary permits may be subject to fines in addition to the normal permit fees.

A building permit is required to construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish a building or structure with certain exceptions. Some fences, retaining, walls, decks, etc. require building permits. Exceptions include but are not limited to painting, papering, certain walks and driveways, one-story detached accessory buildings with less than 120 square feet of floor space.

Demolition permits are required to remove an existing building or structure.

When considering any modification to a structure please contact the City Hall at 509-493-2122 before beginning the work to determine if a permit is required.

4th of July Fireworks

The cities of Bingen and White Salmon in conjunction with the Port of Klickitat and Klickitat County have designated a safe area at Bingen Point for shooting off fireworks.



Areas are also provided for those who wish to view fireworks but not shoot them off. Concession stands provided by Klickitat County Search and Rescue, White Salmon Little League and the Bingen Fire Department will be available.

To keep people and property safe, laws and rules are in place.

- Please remember that illegal fireworks will be confiscated. All legal fireworks are labeled CLASS "C" – any others will be confiscated.
- Be aware of the people around you when discharging fireworks. It is unlawful to discharge or use a firework in a reckless manner which creates a risk of death or injury to a person or damage to property.
- Remember to use the garbage containers located throughout the area. It is unlawful to litter.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on Port property.

Let's have a fun and safe 2004 Fourth of July Celebration.

2003 Water Quality Report

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Health require community water systems to report to their customers about the quality of water they drink. The following information is provided for the year 2003.

Details are provided about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state standards. We are committed to providing you with information. For more information about your water, call the Public Works Department at 509-493-1348. Additional information can be obtained by attending City Council meetings. The City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Where does our water come from?

The City of Bingen's water comes from three municipal wells sunk approximately 300 to 360 feet into an underground source of water. These wells are located as follows: Park Well at Willow and Humboldt; the Dry Creek Well located at Jefferson and Walnut; and the Reservoir Well located north of Highway 141 and Ash Street. After the water comes out of the wells, it is aerated and disinfected to protect you against microbial contaminants.

It should be noted that the City of Bingen purchases water from the City of White Salmon during peak usage. Copies of White Salmon's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report is available at Bingen City Hall and White Salmon City Hall.

Is the water contaminated?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. People should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. Environmental Protection Agency and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water before we treat it include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture and residential uses.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which are naturally occurring.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. We treat our water according to EPA's regulations. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Water Quality Data Table

This table lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected for the period covered by this report. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per because the concentration of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

AL: Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Contaminants	MCLG	MCL	Your Water	Range Low	High	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>								
Nitrate [measured as Nitrogen] (ppm)	10	10	0.3	0.3	0.3	06/05/03	No	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.0016	0.0009	0.0016	06/05/03	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.6	0.6	0.6	06/05/03	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Contaminants(units)	MCLG	AL	Your Water	# of Samples > AL	Sample Date	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
<i>Inorganic Contaminants</i>							
Lead (ppm)	0	15	0.6	0	06/05/03	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Spanish (Español)

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su agua beber. Traduscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Wanted - Volunteer Firefighter

You can get involved with the City of Bingen and help your neighbors and friends by becoming a volunteer firefighter with the City of Bingen Volunteer Fire Department. The fire department provides basic fire training at no cost to the volunteer, except of course your time.

Applications are available at City Hall, 112 N. Ash or by calling 509-493-2122.

**Join the Bingen Volunteer Fire Department
and make a difference in your community.!**

Bingen Council Members and Staff

Brian Prigel, Mayor
Randy Anderson, Council Member
Laura Mann, Council Member
Betty Barnes, Council Member
Terry Trantow, Council Member
Jeanette Fentie, Council Member

Jan Brending, Clerk Treasurer
Dena Riggleman, Deputy Clerk
Mike Wellman, Public Works Director
Brandon Walter, Public Works Maintenance
Esteban Sanchez, Public Works Maintenance
Tom Hons, Treatment Plant Operator
Mark Scowden, Treatment Plant Operator
Micheal Robarge, Treatment Plant Operator

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