



December 2010
www.pwsd.org

Member: South Metro Water Supply Authority

Parker Water and Sanitation District
19801 E. Mainstreet, Parker, CO 80138
303.841.4627

Looking out for your water

Whatever Shall We Call Tier 5?

My goodness, the community creativity for our Name Tier 5 contest has offered many great suggestions. Here are just some of the entries we've received.

- "Help, I'm Drowning"
- "Wetland Wanna-Be"
- "Large Families with Several Teenagers"
- "The Swamp"
- "Excessively High Water User"
- "Wasteful Water Use"
- "Extreme Consumption"
- "Reckless Careless Water Use"
- "Exorbitant Water Use"
- "You Need Help"
- "Stop the Leak!"
- "Water Audit Required"
- "Unnecessary Water Waste!"
- "Well Wishers"

Thanks again for all the great submissions!

Fat-Free Sewers

Fats, oils, and greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for sewers, too!

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes clogged by fats, oils and greases (FOG). FOG gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps/interceptors in restaurants, automotive industries, and other businesses.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.



Save paper, stamps and time
and help us go GREEN!

*ePay and eStatements
for fast, secure online
bill paying. Visit...
www.pwsd.org/billing.php
for more information*

Send Us Your Email

Please give us your email address to allow us to let you know about periodic news and events of community interest. Your email privacy is of our utmost concern and will not be shared externally. Thank you!

And The Winner Is...

Which creative resident is going to win a new, water efficient Irrigation System Rain Sensor? Stay tuned for the winning suggestion for the new Tier 5 water level (those who use in excess of 50,001 gallons per month-if you can imagine that).

We'll announce the winner in January's Waterline.

Enjoy A Family Holiday Tradition...



www.thewildlifeexperience.org

Gerilyn's Ginger Snap Spice Cookies

1 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup oil
1/4 cup dark molasses
1 egg
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. ginger
1/2 tsp. clove

Mix together sugar, oil, molasses and egg until well blended. Add dry ingredients.

Roll dough into balls using a heaping tablespoon of dough for each cookie. Roll in granulated sugar and place on cookie sheet. Bake at 350° F for 10 minutes. While still warm, sprinkle with confectioners sugar.



Fat-Free Sewers *continued*

To help prevent expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies and public health issues, Parker Water & Sanitation District is asking its customers to follow this list of **Do's** and **Don't's**:

Do: Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.

Don't: Use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean grease from dishes. When they are washed, the grease will go to the sewer.

Do: Dispose of large amounts of FOG, by mixing clay cat litter, a little at a time, with the FOG. When all of the FOG has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag, seal the bag, and dispose of it with your regular trash.

Don't: Put grease or greasy food into the garbage disposal.

Do: Recycle used cooking oil, or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container, allow it to solidify, and then discard in the trash.

Don't: Use hot water to rinse FOG from the dishes and pots and pans. As the water cools, the FOG will solidify and clog your pipes.

Do: Wipe grease from pots, pans and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them.

Don't: Rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease. They will only pass it down the line where it causes problems in other areas.

Do: Use strainers in sink drains to prevent food scraps from entering the sewer system.

Don't: Pour FOG, including salad dressings and sauces, into your drains, the toilet, the alley, or gutters.

To Flush or Not to Flush

Everything that is flushed, run through the garbage disposal or dumped enters the wastewater system. Some pollutants seriously disrupt the water treatment process itself, as well as cause serious damage to homes, business and the environment.

Please do NOT flush these items:

baby wipes, Clorox wipes, Swiffer sweeper solution, household hazardous

wastes such as paint or solvents, non-biodegradable items, sanitary products (napkins, tampons, condoms), dental floss, pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides), motor oil, brake fluid, gasoline disposable diapers, rags and toys.



Survey Says!

Some of the feedback recently received by four hundred (400) of your neighbors includes responses to these questions:

Do you believe finding, buying and hooking up to a renewable source of water, such as surface water from a stream or river, to replace the non-renewable aquifer that is currently being used, is a top priority, an important priority or not an important priority for the District?

Top priority – 25% yes Important priority – 56% yes

Regarding a Treatment Plant: PWSD is reusing more than 40% of its water. To be able to double that and reuse up to 80% of its water and help preserve the aquifer, the District will need a purification plant near the new Rueter-Hess Reservoir. 73% support the building of a purification plant for this purpose.



Colorado Among 14 States in Water Danger Zone

The Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC) recently reported global warming has placed more than 1,100 counties – a third of all counties in the lower 48 States – at higher risk of water shortages by mid-century and more than 400 of them will be at extremely high risk.

Fourteen states in particular (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas) are “likely to see limitations on water availability as demand exceeds supply by 2050.”



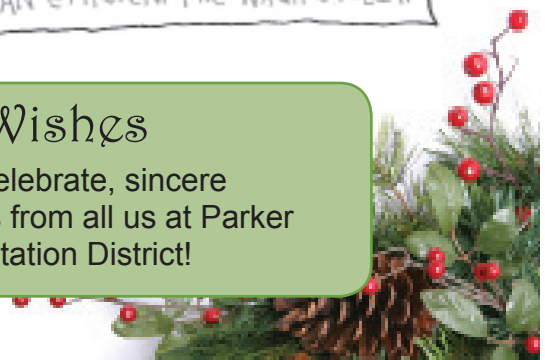
“This analysis shows climate change will take a serious toll on water supplies throughout the country in the coming decades. Water shortages can strangle economic development and agricultural production,” said Dan Lashof, director of the Climate Center at NRDC.

(Read entire article posted on our website under conservation).



Holiday Wishes

However you celebrate, sincere Holiday Wishes from all us at Parker Water and Sanitation District!



“Plant This, Not That”



The best Aspen is the one that grows in the mountains. That is the opinion of most landscape professionals, as Aspen are prone to multiple insect and disease problems here on the Front Range. They are a short lived tree (20 years plus or minus) and they do sucker profusely in our landscapes. A superior alternative is Bigtooth Maple (*Acer grandidentatum*). Growing to a mature height and spread of 30' by 20' (nearly identical to an Aspen), this under-used native maple tree rewards you with great form and texture, as well as brilliant fall colors of orange, red and yellow.



Conservation and Sustainability

Craig R. Miller, Water Sustainability Specialist

Love being in the dark at 4:30pm?

Me neither, but our winter solstice provides a little extra reading time on how to make our lawns and gardens more water-efficient next spring. Here is this month's clip and save suggestion.

Programming your irrigation controller should not be a matter of “set it and forget it.” Your lawn requires different amounts of water based on soil type, weather conditions and exposure. For example, south facing lawns will require more frequent watering than areas that are shaded.

So how do you determine a proper watering schedule? The easiest way is the simple footprint rebound test. If the grass plants immediately rebound (upright themselves) after a firm step of the foot, then the turf is not under stress from lack of water. Step on the grass in each sprinkler zone over the course of several days to determine irrigation frequency. When the grass lays flat and does not recover quickly, it is time to water. Want to be sure? Dig down 3” to 6” with a screwdriver or garden trowel. If the soil is damp, there is no need to water, even if the soil surface looks dry.

“There is nothing in which the birds differ more from man than the way in which they can build and yet leave a landscape as it was before.”

- Robert Lynd



Xeric Plant of the Month

Autumn Joy Sedum (*Sedum spectabile* ‘Autumn Joy’) is a hardy, succulent perennial that is easy to cultivate, even in poor soils. Growing 18” to 24” in height, with a spread of 2 feet, it forms an upright clump of thick rounded leaves, blue-green in color. Before they open in late summer to early fall, the large clusters of flower buds look like broccoli. The flower color ranges from pink to red, aging to an attractive combination of copper, red and yellow-green. This native of China and Korea does best in full sun, but will endure a light shade. It does very well in the dryland garden, but can even tolerate seasonally wet conditions. This zone 4 plant is hardy to 8000', and is attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. It provides outstanding winter interest if you leave the stalks with the seedheads over the winter.

