

Timber holds open house for new state-of-the-art water system



A peek inside the new water plant in Timber shows the pumps on the left with their computer beside them and the new membrane treatment component on the right.

The community of Timber doesn't have much infrastructure, but it does now have a state-of-the-art water plant. Timber is an unincorporated town with a population of 131, just up Timber Road and across Hwy. 26.

The Timber Water Association (TWA) has been in place since the 1970s when they put in a flock filtration plant, the same type that Vernonia currently uses. But, that system's lifespan was up. The TWA's five member board went looking for solutions.

A year and a half ago, TWA President George Herr, took the association down the path to get ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant dollars to replace the aging water system. He found the grant writing resource that successfully brought the grant money to Timber. Current Vice-President Robert Wagner acknowledged Herr's contribution, saying "It wouldn't have happened without this guy." Wagner said there had been about 122 applications for water plants and Timber was one of 18 chosen for ARRA dollars.

Timber received \$675,685 from ARRA and the other half of the cost from a 20-year, three-percent-interest loan. About the loan, Herr said, "We had to increase rates, but not as much as you'd expect." For that money, the 65 Timber water customers got a WesTech, made in America, membrane system that can process up to 40 gallons a minute of water from the Nehalem River. The system is fully computerized and double 'green' pumps work in tandem to pump the water to the holding reservoir. TWA also upgrad-

ed all the water meters so they can be read remotely via a hand-held unit that sends the data straight to the billing system.

There are three fully-trained operators and a Level II engineer, from Hillsboro, comes out once a week to do required testing. The membranes must be cleaned monthly, using a very small amount of citric acid or caustic soda, which is then neutralized either by baking soda or settling in the holding tank. The membranes will require replacement in about 10 years, but the rest of the system should require very little maintenance or replacement for many years to come.

"It's an incredible accomplishment for this community," Herr said.

What's next? Current board President Zeno Lagler said, "We want to be sure it's easy to

hand off the plant to new members," and they need to replace their 50,000 gallon redwood reservoir with a modern tank sometime in the future. Howev-

er, at the open house on Saturday, September 11, the focus was on enjoying and celebrating all the features of their new water system, along with ham-

burgers, sodas and visiting with the neighbors who are now being served by that system.

Child Passenger Safety Week coming

Next week, September 19 - 25, is national "Child Passenger Safety Week" and safety advocates in Oregon say caregivers can learn tips this week that could someday save a life.

"We recently heard from a couple that was involved in a head-on crash, and their baby was buckled up correctly in the back seat in his child safety seat. He was a little sore from the incident, but both he and the parents survived, uninjured," said Carla Levinski, Occupant Protection Program manager for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

In Oregon, more than 500 volunteer Child Passenger Safety technicians teach people how to select and correctly use child safety seats and booster seats. During CPS Week, there are more than two dozen clinics scheduled around the state, and throughout the year, local fire, police, health organizations and others host free "check up" events focused on child passenger safety. A list of events is updated weekly and available online at www.childsafetyseat.org.

Statistics from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration show that in mo-

tor vehicle crashes, child safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers. The proper booster seat reduces the risk by 59 percent (according to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia).

"Securing children properly in size-appropriate child safety seats - in the back seat of the vehicle - is the most effective thing parents and caregivers can do to protect them in the event of a crash," Levinski said. In 2009, only half of Oregon's 988 children under age eight who were injured in crashes were properly secured in child seats or boosters. "Our local car seat programs are working hard to change those statistics."

As a reminder, Oregon law requires the following:

- A child weighing less than 40 pounds must be restrained in a child safety seat.
- A child under one year of age or weighing less than twenty pounds must be restrained in a child seat, rear facing.

• A child over forty pounds but under age eight or less than 4' 9" tall must be restrained in a booster seat that elevates them so the lap/shoulder belts fit correctly.

Free class for renters offered

A Renters Education course will be held beginning September 30, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., sponsored by Community Action Team. This course is free to the public and is a 12-hour course.

The course addresses housing needs, problem solving, preparing finances/budgets and increasing probability for successful tenancy.

Pre-registration is requested, call Cindy at 503-325-9215, ex. 2303 or e-mail to cindkp@cat-team.org.

Power of the People

Power of the People will be back in the October 7 issue.

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