

# DRAKES DUCK POND NEWS

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*Please maintain your heating and cooling system. If you wait until it quits it will quit on you in worst time possible. Such as when it is 110 degrees or -15 degrees. Preventative maintenance is the best medicine you can use to stay comfortable year around. "If it can go wrong it will go wrong at the worst possible time" –*

*Murphy's Law*

## HUFFING FREON-

In light of what happened to the boy in Star a few weeks ago I am going to cover this subject again.

In recent years it has gotten popular with kids wanting to get high to take the refrigerant (Freon) out of air conditioners and huff it. Lots of people I talk to think it is an urban myth. IT IS NOT. On 7/6/2010 in Star Idaho a 15 year old boy drowned due to huffing Freon. Huffing refrigerant does not actually make you get high. It is causing Hypoxia. The deprivation of oxygen to your brain and body. Also since it is heavier than air it is hard for the body to exhale it out. Get enough in or deprive your body of adequate oxygen long enough and the outcome is death.

There are ways to help prevent against this.

- One is having a licensed HVAC Technician install a product called COP CAPS on the test ports of your air conditioner. COP CAPS are a locking cap that takes a special tool to remove.
- Two, put a padlock on the gates that go into your backyard so that it is harder to access the air conditioner in your yard.
- Three and most important is please educate your children in the dangers of huffing!



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## DOUBLE-CHECK BACKFLOW PREVENTER!



### Is your yard trying to poison you?

Do you have automatic sprinklers in your yard? If you do you may have noticed something in your yard that looks similar to the above picture. If you do not have one you should. A backflow preventer on your sprinkler system keeps you from being poisoned by your yard. A backflow preventer is installed in case of a drop in pressure on the city side of the water meter. If there is sprinklers running and the city has a main line break water will be pulled from your irrigation system along with standing water in your yard back into the pipes. Therefore any animal feces/urine, yard fertilizers ect. will be pulled along with that water into your pipes . YUCK. Upon re-pressurization of the water lines the water that came from your yard will be re-introduced into your

(Story continued on page 3)



## AIR CONDITIONING Q&A FROM THE SERVICE TECHS

Q. Why do I need to service my air conditioner yearly?

A. to keep your cooling system running at optimum ability the refrigerant levels need to be checked so that they are not too low or too high causing icing up of the coils. The condensing unit also needs to be checked for proper functioning and cleaned; if it is dirty you are spending money on electricity that you don't need to because of reduced efficiency. The electric motors also need to be checked for proper amp draw so that they do not quit working as soon as it gets hot. Your equipment is under much higher pressures and stress when it is hot. The service technician should also go through your crawlspace or attic and check to make sure that none of your

Q. How often should I change my filters?

A. Check them every 2 months regardless of the make or size, if dirty change them, if they are not dirty check them in another two months. We recommend at least changing them out to a standard pleated filter rather than the super cheap see through filters that don't catch anything.

Q. Is it ok to leave my furnace running all the time?

A. Yes, the motor gets worked the hardest when it first turns on. Blower motors are designed to run all the time so long as the filters are clean.





## MONTHLY TIP (IS YOUR YARD TRYING TO POISON YOU CONTINUED)

Plumbing piping for your house. That is the water that you and your family drink. There have been many cases of people and their families being poisoned by yard fertilizer due to a failed backflow preventer or not having one at all. A backflow preventer in the same situation will slam closed preventing any of that water from being able to flow back into your piping. Have a licensed and certified plumbing technician take a look at what you have, make sure that it is correct for the application and functioning properly.

Please take the time to protect your family from this danger and make sure that your backflow preventer is functional and correct for the application.



Heating & Cooling Systems

## MONEY AND WATER SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH

Does size really matter? When you're talking toilets it does! If you have an older house and your plumbing has never been updated, chances are you don't have a water-efficient 1.6 gallon per flush or less toilet. Older toilets literally waste water with every flush, sending your hard earned money down the drain. Today's toilets combine power with efficiency, giving you the flushing force you need while conserving water. If you've still got an old outdated toilet in your home, consider replacing it with a more efficient option that saves resources and money.

## PLUMBING Q&A FROM THE SERVICE TECHS

Q. Is it ok to use in tank toilet bowl cleaners such as 2000 flushes?

A. The use of these is not recommended. Most of them have chlorine bleach in them and the bleach causes the rubber parts in the tank to harden and start leaking by.

Q. Why does my gas water heater make a popping sound when it is running?

A. The popping sound is sediment and mineral buildup on the bottom of the tank that the heat from the burner is trying to heat through which lessens the efficiency and heating capabilities of your water heater.

Q. Why does my hot water smell like sulphur?

A. The hot water smells bad because of there being too much iron in the water. If the water heater has a Magnesium water heater then it needs to be switched out to Aluminum.

Q. Does a water softener actually help?

A. Yes it does, it saves on mineral buildup in your dishwasher, water heater and faucets.

Q. Do you know where your water shut off is?

A. Knowing where this valve is located is very important. If you have an emergency or a pipe burst and you have to hunt for this there will be much more damage to your property. Worst case, know where your water meter is and shut the valve off to the water meter.







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## PLUMBING Q & A CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Q. Where is my natural gas shut off valve?

A. The main shut off is at your gas meter, familiarize yourself with the location and operation of this valve. There should also be a shut off valve at each piece of equipment that is fed with gas. If you ever open up the door on coming home get outside and do not turn on lights or appliances. Make a call from your neighbors to the gas company and the fire department and wait for their arrival.

Q. Why is it important to have a plumbing inspection?

A. It gives you the homeowner the chance to have a professional look at your plumbing inspection as a whole and warn you of possible upcoming issues. This gives you peace of mind to know you don't have leaks in your crawlspace and also gives you time to budget for necessary future repairs rather than have them become a surprise.

WE SPECIALIZE IN RHEEM HOT WATER HEATERS. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON RHEEM PROFESSIONAL ENERGY STAR WATER HEATERS PLEASE CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT



**LOOK FOR THE GUYS IN THE  
BIG.....  
YELLOW .....  
TRUCKS!**



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