



July 2022

The Dallas Digest

The Mayor's Space

Mayor Brian Dalton



"The solution to our water problems is more rain", Mark Twain

Dallas has wonderful municipal water, both in abundance and quality. Our water source is the pristine Rickreall Creek watershed, which is behind gates and has no farms, fields or buildings upstream of our intake station to mess with our water. We have a great dam up there which works quite well and keeps the flow going even in the summer months in normal years.

But....There are two flies in the ointment, seasonal rainfall and growth.

Seasonal rainfall means we get huge winter/spring rains – 80 times our needs - but the summer months are dry, dry, dry and climate science types tell us it will be getting worse. Thus, the need for more water storage to get us through the dry, even drought, times.

And, when our dam was built in 1959 (for \$238,000 – those were the days!), our population was 5,000 souls. It is now 17,000+ and in another 10 years it will be over 20,000 (welcome aboard!), so clearly a dam built to handle 5,000 people won't do the trick for 20,000 and more to follow - thirsty Californians are eyeing us enviously. On top of that, given that we can't cut off population growth by limiting water supply (pesky state law), it looks like a new, bigger, better dam is the cat's meow.

It seems to me wisely, our City Council has embarked on planning for just such a new dam, likely displacing the old one, which will hold four times the water, allow for fish passage and up the summer water flowing in the creek very nicely. Amen.

So, all things considered, a new dam seems like a very good idea. It might cost a bit more than it did in 1959, but they built us a dam way back then, so why not pay it forward?

Be well.

Dallas Sounds of Summer & Krazy Dayz

DALLAS, OREGON
JULY 28 - 30, 2022

A Huge Success!!!

The City of Dallas is extremely grateful for the hard work and dedication of our staff and community volunteers. Countless hours were spent planning and coordinating Sounds of Summer and Krazy Dayz events. We are proud to create new memories and shared experiences within the wonderful City of Dallas Oregon.

