DAF Monthly Message
WATER TREATMENT PLANT, NEW PRE-TREATMENT SYSTEM
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What’s the latest?
It might feel like the old math conundrum of “approaching infinity” – you keep getting closer, but you’re never there. Well, we’re getting closer and should be “there” (i.e. done with construction) this Fall.

We’ve almost finished all work outside the two new structures – the Dissolved Air Floatation (DAF) and hypochlorite storage buildings. We’re also working on two stormwater ponds and the piping that goes with them, as well finishing up the roofs. We’re continuing to paint inside and out. Soon we’ll be installing metal siding below the brick façade.

Nearly all the stormwater piping and catch basins have been installed, as well as the potable water supply for the new building which was connected by the City.

Park users and nearby neighbors will appreciate one major “To Do” associated with this construction project that we can now mark “Done” – the repair and re-paving of Silver Beach Road (pictured above), which was completed on Friday the 13th no less.

On the inside, we have installed a lot of heating-ventilation-air conditioning (HVAC) equipment including a large air handling unit on the roof of the new Water Pretreatment building. Soon the Plant Operators will be able to move into their new control room.

What’s next?
Most of our effort now is to finish up the installation of equipment inside the building, so we can begin to test the new pre-treatment process. The DAF equipment is mostly installed, and the remaining work is mostly electrical to ensure the equipment has power and controls. The new hypochlorite generation equipment is being installed as well. We hope to start testing the equipment in August. And on the way: cameras, intrusion alarms and the fire alarm installation.

Also good to know: Work hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 3:30 p.m. on Fridays, with occasional Saturday work. Flaggers may still be on-site at Whatcom Falls Park.
If you’ve missed any of these monthly updates, they are archived on the City’s website, along with more project information. From the home page, “search” Capital Projects, then DAF. You’ll find the updates going all the way back to 2016 when construction first began.

**Why we’re doing this:** To make sure the City's drinking water, which is drawn from Lake Whatcom, is as clean and safe as it can be. We're building the Dissolved Air Flotation pre-treatment plant to remove as many particulates as possible from the water, to maximize the City's Water Treatment Plant efficiency. And because the goal for this new facility is to ensure that it will *maximize the efficiency* of our current water treatment plant in the *safest way* possible, we are leaving behind chlorine gas and moving to hypochlorite which we create on-site because it is safer.