

# **Local School Kids Helped Over 150 Families Find and** Repair Toilet Leaks During Fix-A-Leak Week 2014!

2014 marks the third year in a row that North City Water District worked with local elementary students in Shoreline and Lake Forest Park on the Annual Fix a Leak Week Challenge.

And what a year it was: thanks to a slightly improved format, more students got involved, overall participation went up, and we even added a new school to the list of participants!

The challenge was simple: students brought home dye strip tests as part of a special water conservation and awareness program in the classroom. They and their parents used the strip to test their toilet for leaks, and bring back a signed note verifying the test had been completed.

Said one teacher, "Fix a Leak Week is such a fun and easy activity for [our kids] to do. It's a great hands-on way for the students to learn and realize how they can make a difference."

Fix a Leak Week not only received an overwhelmingly positive response from both students and teachers, it helped over 150 families find and repair leaks in their toilets—no small accomplishment, given that leaky toilets are the #1 cause of a high water bill.

#### **More Participation = More Prizes**

This year, North City Water District decided to do something special for the teachers too: three cash awards were given for school supplies, in addition to pizza parties for classrooms with the highest participation.

The teachers were thrilled: "It feels like Christmas!" said Mrs. Benson when writing to us about being able to order the schools supplies. Meanwhile Mrs. Dunphy, who was able to order a long-awaited cutting tool for her classroom, said "I am very excited about the free school supplies! It is my DREAM!!!"

#### **Congratulations to the Winners**

13 classrooms with 100% participation from Brookside Elementary, King's Elementary and St. Mark's Parish School were eligible for the grand prize. drawings. The winners were as follows:

Pizza Party: Mrs. Severns at King's Elementary Pizza Party: Mrs. Pilman at King's Elementary \$100 school supplies: Mrs. Dunphy at King's Elementary \$300 school supplies: Mrs. Keck at St. Mark's Parish School \$500 school supplies: Mrs. Benson at Brookside Elementary

#### Thanks to ALL Fix A Leak Week Participants

Participants included Briarcrest Elementary, Brookside Elementary, Cascade Elementary, King's Elementary, Lake Forest Park Elementary, Parkwood Elementary, St. Mark's Elementary, Shoreline Christian Elementary School and Syre Elementary School.





The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:

Charlotte Haines (President), Ron Ricker (Vice President), and Larry Schoonmaker (Secretary). Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155. 206.362.8100 • www.northcitywater.org









#### From Our Board...

by Charlotte Haines, President

 $S_{\rm o}$  far, this has been an incredibly busy summer for all of us here at North City Water

District—from updating all of the water meters in our entire service area with new electromagnetic flow meters, repainting our 3.7MG North City Reservoir (with the construction of its associated Pump Station scheduled to begin soon), finding and hiring two new employees, giving tours to local legislators, and working with local area elementary schools on the very successful annual Fix-A-Leak Week challenge, to all sorts of local non-profit meetings and events being held in our lovely meeting room... including the Noon Rotary, Friends of Third Place Commons, more live music at this year's North City Jazz Walk, AND another free Savvy Gardener Class scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 24 (details at right). The common denominator? We love serving our community in every way possible.





#### **Fabulous Fall Leaves Class: Your Key to a Great Garden!**

Wednesday Sept. 24, 6:30-8:30 pm More info and registration on our website at: northcitywater.org

North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District

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- North City Reservoir Project Update
  - King County Recycling Award
- Correction about City assumption
  - New Water Meters Installed

#### **Sanda This Issue**

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# All Customers of North City Water District Are Now Enjoying Brand New Electromagnetic Flow Water Meters

If you happened to see a worker digging around your water meter recently, you are probably one of the roughly 25,000 people served by North City Water District who received a brand new and (much) improved electromagnetic flow water meter!



**During June and July** 2014, North City Water District contracted with Vanguard Utility Service, Inc. to change out the old 3/4" and 1" mechanical water meters throughout our entire service area—ranging from Shoreline customers located on the east side of I-5, to Lake Forest Park customers on the west end, as well as all the locations in between. Resolutions 2013.03.15 and 2013.09.35

These new Sensus iPERL Electromagnetic Flow meters (pictured above) offer our customers and our staff all sorts of benefits:





#### **Saving Time & Money**

With the old meters, operations staff were required to physically read water meters on each and every customer's service line. The District crew was spending considerable hours each month reading water meters. Once we are finished replacing the approximately 5,000 meters, the District will spend less than 1 day each month reading meters—giving us more time to focus on other maintenance needed in the system.

#### **Saving Water**

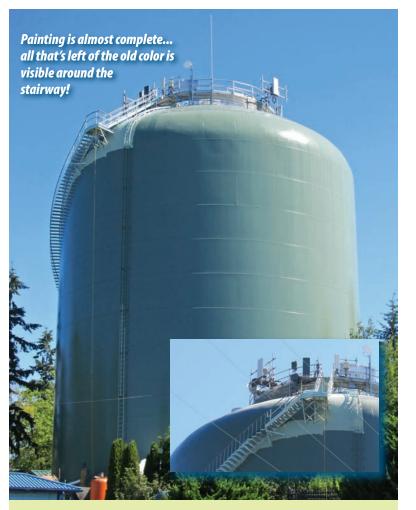
The new meters will enable us to detect leaks much sooner, allowing us to notify customers of a leak long before a large amount of water is wasted.

#### **Improving Safety**

Walking from structure to structure to read water meters was a risk to our employees' safety—particularly along busy roadways such as Bothell Way or 15th Avenue NE. These new meters can be scanned for an electronic reading from up to 200 feet away... resulting in a faster process with significantly reduced safety risks.

#### **Culminating a Seven Year Program**

North City Water District first began replacing older meters along Bothell Way NE in 2007. Since then, the District expanded the program to other busy areas, and eventually our entire service area. For more information about this project or any other projects in your Water District, contact Denny Clouse, our Operations Manager at 206.362.8100.



## North City Reservoir Update: Painting Underway, Pump Station Construction Starts Soon

North City Water District is getting phone calls about the reservoir located near the intersection of of 15th Avenue NE and NE 177th Street... people like its new green color!

As described in our last newsletter, repainting this reservoir was not a simple task, since it was home to a number of wireless carriers antennas. In order to repaint it, all the antennas had to be temporarily relocated—requiring years (literally!) of detailed discussions, negotiations, and eventual new agreements with each wireless carrier.

Next, a large crane installed a brand new railing on top of the reservoir, enabling the wireless carriers to re-install their antennas, thus allowing the remainder of the painting to be completed once all the antennas were in place.

Meanwhile construction of the new Pump Station will go out for bid in August; the contract should be awarded in September, with construction starting soon after.

For more information about this project (Resolution 2014.02.06) or any other projects in your Water District, contact Denny Clouse, our Operations Manager at 206.362.8100.

## **CORRECTION IN THE NEWS**

In the June issue of the City of Shoreline's magazine "Currents," the City stated that it would be assuming North City Water District at the end of the franchise agreement in 2028. That statement is incorrect. North City Water District has not agreed to be assumed by the City.

North City Water District's franchise agreement with the City of Shoreline has a non-assumption clause in which the City agrees to not take over the water utility for the duration of our agreement which runs through December 31, 2027.

The City's Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan at Goal U-11 says that the City will "Pursue alternative service provision options that may be more effective at providing service to our residents, including... examining options with regard to the expiration of the Shoreline [now North City] Water District franchise."

The correction should read as follows: "Towards the end of the franchise agreement in 2027, it is likely the City and the District will explore and discuss future water service options."

The commissioners and staff of North City Water District believe that single purpose governing of utilities (in the form of a "Special Purpose District" like ours) is more focused, responsive, and cost effective than general purpose governmentmanaged utilities when it comes to providing service.

Unlike utilities managed by cities, a Special Purpose District does not have to address conflicting priorities, nor can we divert utility taxes to address other general fund issues such as animal control, transportation, land use planning, or budget deficits. As a Special Purpose District, North City Water District is focused on nothing but water, 365 days a year.



### **King County Awards NCWD!**

North City Water District was recently named by King County's Solid Waste Division on their 2014 "Best Workplaces for Recycling and Waste Reduction" list—along with Ronald Wastewater District, the City of Shoreline, and

94 other companies and organizations—thanks to the tremendous popularity of the water bottle filling station we installed in our main Administrative building lobby.