



Project Updates

North City Pump Station

Earlier this year, the concrete was poured at our new Pump Station project. Since then, the actual pumps have been installed, steel for the building frame has been erected, and we are finalizing the welding at this time. A new roof should be installed in the near future, after which all the indoor work will go into full swing.

Wireless Carrier Activity on top of our 3.7MG Reservoir

Back in 2007, as part of all of the updates taking place on, around, and within our 3.7 MG reservoir in North City, we began discussions with the wireless carriers who had equipment on top of our reservoir to have them relocate the equipment while we painted our reservoir. They signed new

leases in 2012/2013 and once the painting was complete, re-installed their equipment in 2013/2014. However, as technology continues to evolve, some of the wireless carriers have already contacted us about making updates to their equipment—a pattern that will likely continue every two to three years to keep up with the changes in mobile technology.

Northwest Church: our Future District Maintenance Facility

Now that the Northwest Church has relocated to their new facility in Lynnwood, North City Water District has officially taken ownership of their former site. Located immediately southwest of Hamlin Park, off 15th Avenue NE in Shoreline, this will become the future home of our new **Maintenance Facility** (our Administration Office on 1519 NE 177th Street is not moving or changing). An architect will be selected later this year to begin redesigning the structures.



If you have any questions about these projects, or the infrastructure behind your water system, give us a call at 206.362.8100.

Welcoming Our New Executive Assistant

North City Water District is delighted to introduce you to our newest employee, Theresa Harrington. In her role as Executive Assistant, Theresa wears a lot of different hats—ranging from office organizational tasks, board room facilitation, and executive responsibilities for our District Manager, to community and public outreach—including educating children about water conservation and

environmental issues. She is also serving as our representative on the Saving Water Partnership's Conservation Technical Forum Committee.

Theresa's skills, experience and passion were a great match for the job, having worked for a non-profit association that provided civil legal services to low income individuals as a grant writer for Harborview Medical Center Development Department, and as a non-profit consultant for Seattle Music Teachers Association. As a volunteer PTSA Board Member, Theresa worked with Carl Sandburg Elementary School's Green Team to establish composting and waste reduction, and helped set up the school's first Science Expo. We're thrilled to have her on our staff, and invite you to come say hello to her at one of our next community event appearances!



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

Ron Ricker (President), Larry Schoonmaker (Vice President), and Charlotte Haines (Secretary).

Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.

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NORTH CITY WAVES

Issue 3: July • August • September 2016

A newsletter for water-related issues and info
Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

It's that time of year—the weather is great and our crews are out exercising and checking the valves and hydrants throughout our system. You may see them “flushing” water through a hydrant during the inspection, a process that verifies adequate water pressure in case of an emergency. Or they might be working on repairing a water main break, something that happens occasionally on any water system. Staff are also actively involved in overseeing the new pump station construction effort in North City. Meanwhile, our Board of Commissioners is reviewing financing options to convert the Northwest Church property into our new Maintenance Facility. After the redevelopment is complete, our shop facility (currently located at the intersection of 15th Avenue NE and NE 169th Street), will relocate to the former church site (our Administration Building will remain in its current location). All of these activities enable us to maintain a safe, reliable water system that you can count on daily as well as in the event of an emergency.



Fire hydrant being flushed

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

- (1) Join www.nextdoor.com for neighborhood news and notices
- (2) Follow us on www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict
- (3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our website at www.northcitywater.org

Three Ways to Stay in Touch

- Emergency Water Preparation
- FREE Savvy Gardener Class
- Project Updates
- Welcoming our New Executive Assistant

Inside This Issue

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Emergency Water Preparation... Are You Ready?

Safe and reliable drinking water is something you may take for granted, until a disaster disrupts the water supply to your house. Here's what North City Water District has done, and what we recommend YOU do, to be prepared in the event of an emergency:

- Your Water District has been preparing for emergency events since we were officially formed back in 1931:
- ✓ Our reservoirs are oversized so that we can deliver water during peak demand times, such as a fire.
 - ✓ Our water mains are oversized to allow for fire flow to go through the pipes to help fight fires.
 - ✓ We have back-up generators installed where ever critical water and system monitoring equipment operates 24x7x365.

In addition to our strong system components, North City Water District recently joined a group of other regional utility providers including our regional provider, Seattle Public Utilities, in a training exercise that simulated a 9.0 level earthquake. The goal of this event was to help us test and confirm our mutual systems and procedures. We will continue to work closely with the other providers to strengthen intra-agency communications even more.

But we are only part of the equation. How will you and your family cope during the days after an emergency?

We recommend the following three simple steps. They only take about an hour to do, and will ensure you and your household is prepared in the event that a disaster causes an interruption in your water supply:

Step 1: Know How Much Water You Need

Takes approximately 10-15 minutes

The first step in being prepared is knowing how much water to have on hand for emergencies. At a minimum, the American Red Cross recommends a gallon of water per day, per person, for at least three days. This will address the majority of basic water requirements — hydration, cooking, washing — however your household may require other uses of water that are less obvious.

Walk around your home with a notepad and jot down all the ways water is currently being used: house plants? the fish tank or an outdoor fish pond? your dog's water dish? an outdoor greenhouse? Make a list of each use of



water, and estimate approximately how much water is required, and how often, for each of the uses. Ask other family members to weigh in too.

Step 2: Think About Ways to Reduce Water Use

Takes approximately 10-15 minutes

Now that you have your list, think about which of the items on your list could be reduced or eliminated during an emergency—it's almost like going camping.

Plates, cups and utensils could be replaced with disposable (preferably recyclable) paper and plastic to avoid having to wash dishes. Moving house plants outside to capture rainwater (during less cold months) could reduce their need for water. Using a local laundromat for washing clothes, if this facility has not been affected by the emergency, could be another option. Likewise an existing health club or gym membership, if the facility has not been affected, could be a convenient place to take showers. Make a note of each possibility on your list.

Step 3: Begin Maintaining a Back-Up Supply

Takes approximately 30 minutes

Once you have determined the volume of water your household typically requires, it's time to collect your own back-up water supply. Here are three tips from the City of Seattle's Emergency Management department:

Tip # 1: You can store water from the tap in plastic containers with a screw-cap lid, such as two-liter soda pop bottles or food-grade plastic jugs.

Thoroughly rinse out the container with water. For extra safety, thoroughly rinse the container with a weak solution of liquid chlorine bleach (8-10 drops in two cups water). Empty this solution out then fill the container to the top with fresh water.

Seal the container tightly, label it "drinking water" and date it. Store it in a cool, dark place such as in a garage or

Emergency Water Preparation, continued

basement, under the bed, or behind the sofa. Empty and refill every 6 months.

Tip # 2: You can purchase containers that are designed to store water at the grocery stores or camping supply stores. These come in various sizes of containers from single gallon to fifty-five gallon drums. Don't forget to save extra water for your pets also.

Be sure these containers are food grade, BPA-free plastic and designed for water storage. Rinse and fill the same as in Tip # 1. Empty and refill every 6 months. Remember, the larger the container, the heavier and more difficult to pour the water from.

Tip # 3: Purchase cases of bottled water from the grocery or warehouse store. Label the case with the date and store in a cool, dark place. Replace bottled water prior to the expiration date on the bottles or at least once a year.

What to Avoid:

- Do not use glass bottles (glass breaks too easily, particularly in an earthquake situation).
- Do not use old bleach bottles (or any container that has held a toxic substance). The plastic of old bleach bottles contains substances that, over time, get into the water and make it unfit for drinking.
- Avoid the use of plastic milk jugs. They are difficult to seal tightly, and their plastic becomes very fragile and brittle over time.

- Do not use the water in your swimming pool or hot tub for drinking. If power is off, the pumps will likely be off too, which decreases filtration and water movement. To be on the safe side, pool and hot tub water can be an excellent source for flushing your toilet, rinsing off muddy boots or paws, and watering plants.

Other Helpful Water Storage Tips:

Cook without water whenever possible. The simple act of boiling potatoes can use up a lot of water which could be better used for drinking purposes.

Large soup pots hold a lot of water for temporary drinking and washing purposes.

Use your bathtub to store non-drinkable water: just pour a bucket of water into your toilet to manually flush it.

When Emergency Strikes...

When you see any problem related to water — whether it's coming up out of the ground (which may be a break in the water main), or a leaking water meter, call North City Water District at 206-362-8100 twenty four hours a day. We have employees standing by to help you in the event of an emergency.

Additional Resources

- www.ready.gov/
- www.seattle.gov/emergency-management
- www.shorelinewa.gov/emergency/emergency-management
- <http://www.cityoflfp.com/index.aspx?NID=408>

Free Gardening Class:

Wildlife-Friendly Gardening for Beauty and Sustainability

Date: Wednesday, September 28th, from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: North City Water District, 1519 NE 177th St., Shoreline, WA
Instructor: Landscape designer/educator Emily Bishton

Welcome songbirds, butterflies, and beneficial insects into your yard while conserving natural resources at the same time. Discover how urban wildlife can provide you with year-round natural pest and weed control and better pollination. See beautiful, tried-and-true plants in Magnuson's Bird-Friendly Landscape. Learn about design techniques and maintenance practices that can attract and nurture beneficial wildlife in your garden for years to come.

To sign up, email theresah@northcitywater.org or call 206.362.8100.

This Savvy Gardener event is made possible by sponsorship from Seattle Public Utilities and the Saving Water Partnership.

