Ensure Proper Fire Hydrant Installation

A fire hydrant is one of the most important parts of a water distribution system

- Connect fire hydrants only to
- enough away from the curb to
- . Be sure the outlet nozzles are at

- between the hydrant and the supply main to isolate the hydrant
- 8. Remove foreign matter from the hydrant lead before installing the
- In setting a hydrant, use a firm footing such as stone slabs or a concrete base on firm ground, to prevent settling and strain on the
- 10. Provide for thrust restraint of the hydrant by strapping, blocking, or



Fire Hydrants—a critical part of your water system

During our recent public communication events, we became aware that some residents believe that fire hydrants are stand alone components and were not aware that they were connected to our pipes underground. We thought the above graphic (courtesy of the American Water Works Association) would explain it best.

Your water system consists of a series of pipes (called "water mains" in the industry), each of which is sized according to the type of development they serve above ground. Most of our system is looped in a circle but we do have some dead-end water mains, such as in a cul de sac.

Hydrants and valves are strategically positioned along this network of pipes—hydrants serve as the fire department's connection point during a fire; valves enable us to adjust the flow of water to provide optimum water pressure.

We can also flush our system through our hydrants which helps maintain the quality of your water.

This year our crews are busier than ever with ongoing hydrant inspection, maintenance, and painting. Keeping this integral part of our system well maintained keeps our fireman very happy!

Community Corner

- ✓ Fix a Leak Challenge: our 6th annual water conservation and awareness challenge saw no less than 157 leaky toilets "apprehended by leak detectives" (aka the awesome students of 57 Shoreline and Lake Forest Park schools).
- ✓ North City Jazz Walk: on August 15, your water district was proud to be one of the main contributors for the 11th annual Jazz Walk, Pianist Bill Anschell performed in our meeting room—one of 11 bands, sponsors, and venues who gave our community an affordable, family-friendly night of good music.



✓ Savvy Gardener Classes: we're breaking the record this year with THREE FREE Savvy Gardener classes... two back in March, and one coming up on Thursday September 21: "Fall and Winter Gardening Strategies." Get all the details at www.northcitywater.org and reserve your spot by calling Theresa at 206.362.8100.

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).

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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

We talked about infrastructure in our first quarter newsletter, and we're talking about it again, because the news hasn't improved: a recent article in *US News and World Report* expects government shut-downs, tax laws, and other legislation to take priority over infrastructure programs on the national front, while here in Washington state, legislators recently voted to eliminate the Public Works Assistance Account—one of our state's core infrastructure funding sources. How does a Utility District accommodate our region's explosive growth, manage ongoing repairs, and plan for system upgrades? As Commissioners, we continue to educate ourselves so we can make informed, cost-effective decisions, and take part in water system policy decisions. As a Distrct, we carefully analyze short- and long-term goals, while our staff performs regular maintenance to extend the life of our system (much like regular oil changes can extend the life of a vehicle). Thankfully this proactive approach has put North City Water District's infrastructure far ahead of the local and national curve.



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

website at www.northcitywater.org

- 3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our
- 2) Follow us on www.Facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict
- Toin www.nextdoor.com for neighborhood news and notices

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- Community Corner
- All About Fire Hydrants
 - Project Updates
- Welcoming Lorri Smith
- Infrastructure Funding Still in the News

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Shoreline, Washington 98155 1519 NE 177th Street PO Box 55367



Infrastructure Funding... Still in the News

How does a District address significant infrastructure needs, against dwindling infrastructure financing, with the least impact to our ratepayers?

Over the past few years, stories about bridge collapses, massive roadway sink holes, and other signficant infrastructure events have been appearing more frequently in both local and national news.

Nationally and statewide, all types of infrastructure (from transportation, aviation, ports and waterways, and broadband, to water resources, energy, electricity transmission, and pipelines) are in need of significant update and/or expansion. It's no surprise that infrastructure became a campaign promise during the last presidential election.

Add in our state's failure to pass a capital budget in June, the elimination of one of our state's most successful infrastructure funding sources (Public Works Assistance Account), all amidst record state development and population growth, and we've got quite a conundrum.

Reliable Infrastructure Requires Reliable Funding

Like it or not, our communities have come to depend on the county, state, and federal government to help fund local infrastructure projects.

At the federal level, there is considerable talk about public/private financing. At our state level, failure to pass a capital budget in June means many projects that were ready for construction or already under construction will no longer receive state financing.

From a drinking water standpoint alone, the failure to pass the state capital budget directly impacted 74 local drinking water projects. This has never happened before and there's no telling what the long term impacts will be.

One of these 74 projects was our North City Pump Station. Thankfully, we had already financed a large portion of this project beyond the loan amount (through proactive bond financing), so we did not have to shut it down. Other Districts and Cities were not so lucky...

Capital projects represent large undertakings that Districts plan many years in advance. Whenever North City Water District conducts our annual budget review, we look at each upcoming project, carefully analyze its funding sources against a variety of factors including the economy, and make decisions accordingly—prior to starting the project—sometimes years in advance.

Case in point: back in the early 1990s, we began planning for eventual expansion of our shop and administrative facilities—both of which had been located down the street (at 16906 15th Avenue NE) since the mid-1940s. We spent the next two decades exploring various options, eventually deciding to relocate just our Administrative Offices to the present location at 1519 NE 177th Street in North City, and continue searching separately for the best site and financing approach for our Maintenance Facility.

25 years later, the right combination of scope, land, and financing came through for the Maintenance Facility. Not only does its new site (at 15555 15th Avenue NE) offer excellent advantages, it allowed us to collect rental income from the property for a couple years until we were ready to issue revenue bonds for construction. This level of careful planning, timing, and budgeting is going to become even more critical in the years ahead, in order to meet ongoing infrastructure and capital improvement needs with the least financial impact on our ratepayers.



Welcome Lorri, Our New Customer Care Specialist!

Lorri Smith was clearly a natural for our Customer Care position. Before coming to work for us, she worked closely with the public, processing home equity loans at a credit union. Here at the District, her days are filled with a much broader range of customer-related responsibilities, including answering the phone, creating service requests, processing payments and information changes, and generating financial reports (a perfect use of her credit union experience). No matter how her day is filled, Lorri's cheerful attitude shines through: she loves working with people, answering their questions, and helping resolve problems. When she's not behind a desk, she and her husband and children love visiting family on Long Beach, Washington and Reno, Nevada, or traveling for fun to places like New York and Chicago. Going to parks, swimming lessons, and a summer full of childrens' birthday parties keep this dedicated mom busy, yet she still manages to squeeze in time for shopping (her secret passion).

North City Pump Station is Live!

Has it really only been a month? Shortly after permanent electricity was connected to the site in July, our crews began the detailed start up procedure for our new North City Pump Station. She passed with flying colors, and "went live" in early August!

Once the new Pump Station came online, we were able to demolish the old "blue roof" pump station (causing consternation among a few passersby until they noticed the brand new Pump Station right behind it; see photos at right). Site paving and final landscaping will occur in early September.

The new North City Pump Station will accommodate increased water storage as well as increased pressure in portions of our system, including the higher elevations. Its pumps can distribute water at up to 3500 gallons per minute to help put out fires in larger structures.

With great pride, we welcome this new "heart of our system." North City Water District is now well-positioned to meet the needs of our area's anticipated development for the next 25... maybe even 50 years!

Permit Granted for Our New Maintenance Facility

Our permit was approved, site and facility design is underway, and construction is expected to go out for bid in early 2018.

In late April, the District applied for a Special Use Permit for our property at 15555 15th Ave NE (the old Northwest Church property) and a few months later, received approval to construct a new, more streamlined facility on this site—rather than reusing the existing

church structures, as per the site plan at right. Design is underway, and we anticipate construction will go out to bid in early 2018.

We also requested permission to increase the property boundary fence from 6 feet to 8 feet; this request was not approved, so a 6 foot fence will be erected.

Stay tuned for another community meeting about this project in the Fall, feel free to track the project's status on our website, and call us at 206.362.8100 if you have any questions!



