

Community Corner



Photo by J Tucker • Sticks & Stones Photography

We were proud to have been a sponsor of the annual North City Jazz Walk. This year the event featured ten jazz bands, including Dmitri Matheny and Holly Pyle performing in our community meeting room. Just outside our front door, NCWD staff offered a cool glass of water from our “filling station” and answered questions throughout the night.



We also had booths at the Ridgecrest Ice Cream Social, Shoreline / Lake Forest Park Arts Festival at the community college, and Celebrate Shoreline, where we used a regional 3-D model of King County to demonstrate where our water comes from, how it gets to our community, and what we and the community can do in the event of an emergency.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

- Sept. 3, 2019 – Million Step Challenge Kick Off, Paramount Park, 6:00 PM
- Sept. 7, 2019 – LFP Picnic in the Park, Animal Acres Park, 10:00 AM
- Sept. 26, 2019 – Savvy Gardener Class: Simply Lovely: Great Plants for Northwest Natives, 6:30 - 8:00 PM
- Dec. 7, 2019 – North City Business Association Tree Lighting

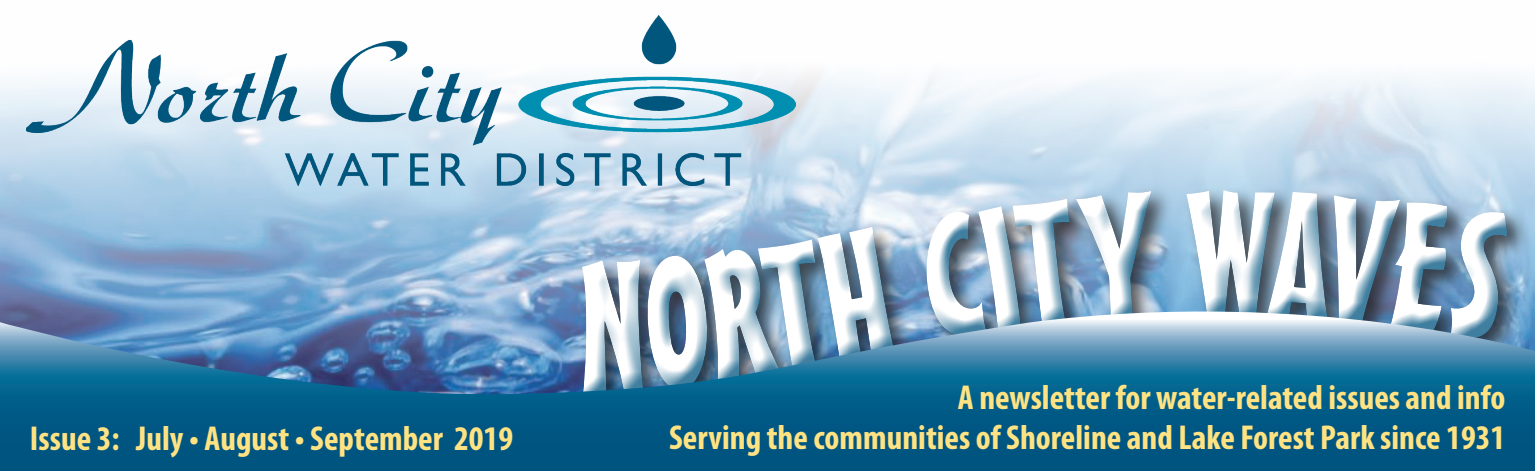


Say Hello to Jennifer!

North City Water District is pleased to introduce you to Jennifer Tucker, who joined us this Spring as an Accounting Specialist, with a focus on Accounts Payable, Taxes, Payroll, and financial reporting.

Jennifer has been in corporate accounting for over 20 years, most of that time as a Senior Accountant at KPFF Consulting Engineers, where she worked on corporate taxes, risk management, and audits with both state and local government entities. “Working at North City Water District is my first foray into public utilities,” says Jennifer, “and I’m glad to be in an environment with so much emphasis on community involvement.”

When she’s not on the job, Jennifer loves traveling around the state doing photography. Her last project documenting Works Progress Administration sites in Western Washington—including bridges, a cannery, and sidewalks—was published in the Summer 2018 issue of Columbia, the WA State Historical Society quarterly magazine of NW history. She also enjoys reading, spending time on the water or in the woods, and snuggling her Maine Coon cat named Douglas Fir, who “does his best to keep me in line.”



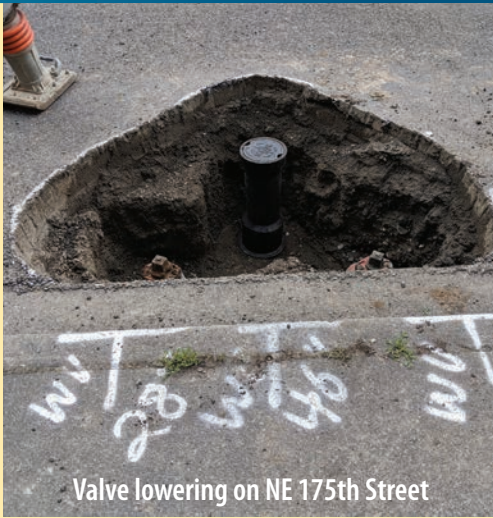
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A newsletter for water-related issues and info
Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

This has been an extremely active summer for everyone at North City Water District, and this newsletter definitely reflects that. Our crews have been busy supporting the City of Shoreline with their NE 175th Street Overlay project, which required lowering the water valves so the City could grind and overlay the street with fresh pavement. While some of this work could be done during the day, most had to be done at night when there was less traffic. We’ve also had a record number of water line location requests, new service installations, and removing water services from properties slated for Sound Transit—in addition to regular valve and hydrant maintenance, working on King County’s Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and attending community events (where we love educating our ratepayers about water issues). If you have questions about any of this, give us a call at 206.362.8100.



Valve lowering on NE 175th Street

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

- Infrastructure in the News
- Ongoing Preparations for Emergencies
- Project Update
- Preparing for Sound Transit
- Community Corner and Calendar
- New Accounting Specialist

Inside This Issue

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

Ron Ricker (President), Charlotte Haines (Vice President), and Patty Hale (Secretary).
Feel free to contact us at PO Box 55367, or 1519 NE 177th Street, Shoreline, WA 98155.
206.362.8100 • www.northcitywater.org • [f](https://www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict) / NorthCityWaterDistrict



Infrastructure in the News

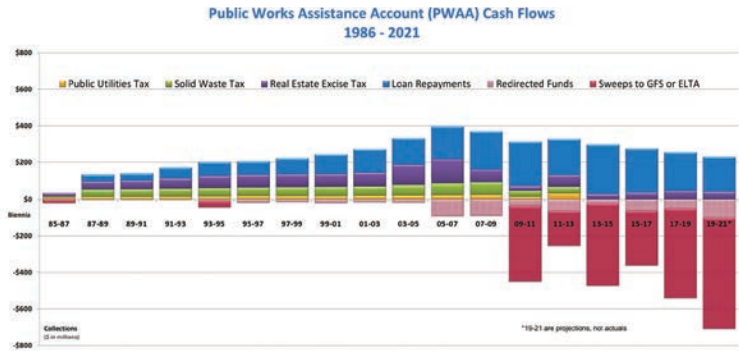
North City Water District and many other water and sewer districts around our state have been closely following the progress of legislative action regarding Washington state’s Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA).

Established in 1985, the PWAA fund provides local governments with affordable financing for critical infrastructure projects. Our district is one of many that has received multiple low interest loans from this program—we all believe it is necessary for the safety and viability of our communities and economy.

Unfortunately, state legislature continues to divert funds from the PWAA (shown in red in the chart) to fund such things as the Education Legacy Account and General Fund.

We have several active members of the state legislature in both the 32nd and 46th Districts, including Representative Gerry Pollet, who understands the importance of infrastructure funding. During a recent meeting with Rep. Pollet, in which he was honored with a Legislator of the Year award from the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD), we were able to discuss our concerns about the dwindling PWAA funds.

Not only did Rep. Pollet help pass ESSB 5418 that included unit price contracting for water and sewer districts (which gives us more tools to be efficient and provide cost savings to our customers), he was a co-sponsor of HB 1241 providing healthcare benefits to commissioners of smaller districts—thus equalizing the benefits for all districts, while providing an important recruiting tool for small districts. We know he



understands the full impact of the ongoing diversion of funds from the PWAA after our meeting together.

Given how critical reliable infrastructure is to the economic growth of our state, it is essential for our legislators to address local governments’ limited capacity to finance major infrastructure projects—not only to sustain our communities’ quality of life, but to enable our state to continue to attract businesses that provide adequate employment for our ever-growing population.



L to R: Commissioner Patricia Hale; WASWD Executive Director Judi Gladstone; Representative Gerry Pollet, Commissioners Charlotte Haines, and Ron Ricker

Ongoing Preparations for Natural Disaster Emergencies

As mentioned in our Spring newsletter, North City Water District is part of a multi-agency group working to identify emergency planning activities that will help all of us be more prepared and responsive.

In addition to working with King County to update their Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (www.kingcounty.gov/hazardplan), we’ve signed up for ShakeAlert.org’s early earthquake alert program (as mentioned recently in the Seattle Times), looked at projects that we can do now to better prepare us in the event of a natural disaster, communicated with local fire departments about the impacts to fire service after an earthquake, and are in the process of identifying additional methods to communicate with our customers after an emergency.

We Need Your Help...

If a natural disaster strikes our area, most of our water mains are made of cast iron, and some may break as the earth shifts. Where and how will you get water? In addition to announcements on our website, Facebook, and NextDoor.com, we are considering a One Call system, and/or an email blast to all ratepayers.

If you’d like to have your emergency contact information added to your account, email us at customerservice@northcitywater.org, or give us a call at 206.362.8100.

Project Update: New Maintenance Facility

After years of planning and anticipation, North City Water District is excited to see construction finally begin on our new Maintenance Facility.

Faber Construction is doing a great job, as you can see when you drive by the site on 15th Avenue NE. Concrete footings and slabs have been poured for our future Maintenance Staff Facility, and walls will start being erected right around the time this newsletter goes to print. Once the walls are up, the roof will be installed so the structure is protected before the wet season begins.

Next comes the Decant Structure—a deep structure where the slurry of water and soils sucked up by our vacuum truck can be discharged, and liquid can be separated from the sediment and routed to the sewer system. Because we use our vacuum truck for just about any type of excavation, including new services and valve maintenance, this building will be used frequently. Excavation has already begun, and we expect to pour the footings in the near future.

Last comes the Shops wing of our Maintenance Facility, which is currently being reviewed by the City of Shoreline’s Building Department. Once we receive their approval, you’ll start to see additional footings and a very long foundation being poured that will eventually enable us to house and maintain all of our vehicles.



Preparing for Sound Transit

What does the arrival of Sound Transit mean to your water district? A significant and ongoing amount of water system services removal and more, all along the path of the future light rail line.

As residences are being demolished, we are working with Sound Transit to remove corresponding water services, and decommission a water main on NE 148th Street to enable construction of the Shoreline South station. Good communication is critical—not only for field work, but also with the office staff who handle the billing.

