



Both the vehicle replacement account and preservation account are held for future use, and will only be drawn upon when necessary.

North City Water District Adopts a Two Year Budget

After tracking our finances in a new and improved format for several years, followed by the acquisition of funds (bond proceeds) for our new maintenance facility and other capital projects, North City Water District's Board of Commissioners felt confident in moving to a two year budget.

Balancing the 2017 and 2018 Budgets

As we committed to you several years ago, we would rather make small annual, incremental rate increases in order to keep water bills as predictable as possible—rather than waiting as long as possible before making a large rate increase. Our adopted two year budget includes a 4.7% rate increase for 2017, and a 3% rate increase for 2018, to

address ever-increasing cost of water supply, treatment, delivery, infrastructure to meet a growing population, and ongoing maintenance. These rates factor in economic inflation, and an anticipated a wholesale water supply rate increase expected for the 2018-2020 period. Next year, the District intends to conduct a Cost of Service Study, and a Connection Charge Study, both of which will help us gauge service rates in the future.

We invite you to view our budget on our website at: <http://northcitywater.org/resources/financial-statements-and-audits/>



Online Bill Pay Now Available!

Would you like to use your debit or credit card to pay your water bill online? North City Water District is pleased to announce our brand new Online *AND* Over-The-Phone Bill Pay System!

Save time, postage and checks... set up custom auto-pay options, view your usage history and balance info... all of this is now available online. And best of all, there's NO FEE!

Online: <https://northcitywater.merchanttransact.com>
Phone: Call 206.362.8100 and follow the prompts.

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 WATER DISTRICT

NORTH CITY WAVES

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

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From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

As the new year begins, we've been reflecting on the precious resource that is so easy to take for granted: water. This past year, the situation in Flint Michigan, as well as a lesser scare here in our own state, reminded us of the importance of water quality. Meanwhile, increasing attention on our nation's failing infrastructure, including public water systems, reminds us why water systems are so often forgotten and neglected: much of our water system is underground, where it is not readily visible. Thankfully, in contrast to the rest of the nation, North City Water District's approach to infrastructure has been far more proactive: we are continually upgrading our system (as the "Project Spotlight" in this newsletter always highlights); we have installed new additional water quality sampling stations to help us monitor water quality throughout our system, and expect to add even more next year. If you have any questions about your water, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Cedar River Watershed:
one of our two sources of water



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

- The Varied Status of Infrastructure
- Project Update
- How to Winterize Your Pipes
- Two Year Budget Adopted
- Online Bill Pay and Pay-By Phone
- Now Available!

Inside This Issue

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The Dramatically Varied Status of Infrastructure

“Underground water system networks, because they are out of sight—if not completely out of mind—have reached a state of deterioration that exceeds that of the nation’s roads and transportation infrastructure above ground.”

The above statement came from a study of national infrastructure by Competitive Enterprise Institute, a conservative Washington, DC think tank. Their report, found at <http://cei.org/issue-analysis/fixing-americas-crumbling-underground-water-infrastructure>, included the following details:

- America’s population, which is expected to increase by 30% to 100 million citizens in the mid-21st century, is placing an ever-increasing strain on our nation’s water infrastructure.
- Over 300,000 water main (pipe) breaks occur every year in North America, due to widespread corrosion of aging metal pipeline systems.
- Repairing or replacing water mains entails not only the cost of engineering and construction, but associated costs in terms of traffic disruptions, local business service interruptions, the possible need for emergency equipment, and temporary depletion of water supplies.
- The projected repair and replacement costs to upgrade the nation’s water and wastewater systems is estimated at \$3 to \$5 trillion over the next 20 years.
- These projected costs are coming at a time when governments at all levels—federal, state, and city—are facing substantial budget shortfalls.

So how does North City Water District’s Infrastructure Compare?

In stark contrast to the national report cited above, our approach to maintaining infrastructure is based on an ongoing, proactive system plan: we are, quite literally, continually upgrading our infrastructure. This includes:

- One Master Telemetry Monitoring System: our electronic system allows us to remotely monitor and operate all of our critical components. In 2012, a local Lynnwood engineering company upgraded the system that allows us to remotely monitor our reservoirs, booster and supply stations, and District Headquarters.



- Two reservoirs (3.7 million and 2.0 million gallons): our water reservoirs undergo regular maintenance every 5 years and get new exterior paint and interior recoating roughly every 25 years.
- Ninety-five miles of Water Mains (piping): your district is continually upgrading the water mains (pipes) throughout the system. Two years ago, we utilized an affordable 1% Drinking Water Revolving Fund loan to replace approximately 2,000 feet of nearly 60 year old, 8-inch diameter steel water main (piping) with new, 8-inch ductile iron water mains.
- 5000+ Water Meters: in 2014, we installed new Sensus iPERL Electro-magnetic Flow meters that are not only accurate down to the teaspoon of flow, but also significantly reduce the amount of time our staff will spend reading the meters.
- One Pump Station, two Booster Stations, and four Supply Stations: we inspect and maintain these critical system components every week. Most recently, we utilized Washington State’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund’s extremely affordable 1% loan rate to replace the North City Pump Station located adjacent to our 3.7 million gallon reservoir.
- Thirteen Pressure Reducing Stations, five Check Valves, and six Zone Vales: we calibrate and test pressure reducing stations twice a year, and upgrade them every 15 to 20 years: three of which were upgraded recently with two more scheduled for upgrade and replacement in 2017.
- Over 700 Fire Hydrants and Valves: we continually operate and maintain hydrants and valves every two years to ensure operable function.

Although proactive infrastructure maintenance may not be the “national norm,” it’s far more common among Special Purpose Districts. North City Water District’s Board of Commissioners has long maintained a philosophy of regular system improvements, rather than waiting for emergency repairs.

In our experience, routine, ongoing, proactive infrastructure maintenance is the best approach—not only because it promotes reliability, but because it promotes economic sense: something our ratepayers (and their kids and grandkids) will benefit from for decades to come.



Project Update: North City Reservoir and New Pump Station

Our new North City Reservoir and Pump Station project is now over 80% complete, and we’re feeling no small amount of pride in this statement, considering the many sequential steps necessary to achieve the project.

From lengthy negotiations with cellular providers way back in 2007 (the reservoir is home to a number of their antennae), and complex coordination with multiple agencies and organizations, to carefully phased scheduling of each step—all of this needed to be done before any actual construction could begin.

As of December, drainage has been installed throughout the site and connections made to underground utilities. Inside the new building, the electrical systems are complete and awaiting inspection; meanwhile the heating system, sheet rock, and skylights have all been installed. Once this new Pump Station has been completed and approved by the various building officials, we will demolish the existing pump station and perform final site clean up in January 2017. As always, feel free to give us a call at 206.362.8100 if you have any questions about this project.

How to Winterize Your Pipes

1. Disconnect and drain all garden hoses.
2. Insulate all exterior pipes and faucets.
3. Insulate interior pipes and faucets located in cold areas (e.g., unheated attics, basements, garages, crawl spaces).
4. Locate your master water shut-off valve and test it prior to an emergency.
5. If you have a yard sprinkler system, drain and blow out the system completely.
6. For maximum protection, apply caulk around incoming pipes, and close or block your home’s foundation vents during the coldest months (mark your calendar to open them back up this spring, in order to prevent dry rot).