

# Your District, Your Community

As a Special Purpose Water District, we make a point to routinely participate, involve, support, and educate our community. Here are just a few of the ways we've been doing that in recent months:



### Picnic in the Park

Held on September 7 at Animal Acres Park

This fall, we were thrilled to host a booth at the annual Lake Forest Park Picnic. In the above photo, our Field Inspector/Special Projects Coordinator Toby Bigger filled North City Water District water bottles to refresh the crowd, while Commissioner Haines answered questions and provided information on District projects and water conservation.

### Savvy Gardener Class

Held on September 26 in our conference room

The last Savvy Gardener Class of the year was held at our headquarters building, featuring gardening expert Emily Bishton presenting the use of native Northwest plants. Stay tuned for next year's list of free Savvy Gardener classes in our Spring newsletter, or visit [www.savingwater.org](http://www.savingwater.org).



### Mark Your Calendar: Annual Tree Lighting Festival

To be held on Saturday December 7 at Les Schwab Parking Lot

Join the fun as the community gathers to kick off the season by watching the tree light up atop the North City Water District water reservoir—including a special visit from Santa and his elves, who will arrive by "sleigh" to meet the kids.

## Update on Natural Disaster Emergency Preparations

As mentioned in both our Spring and Summer newsletters, 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. Since our last newsletter, we've initiated the following four things:

- 1) In September, our application was approved by the U.S. Geological Survey to be a part of the ShakeAlert Pilot program. This technology involves sensors that detect "P waves" (the compressional primary waves created by earthquakes that travel faster than the subsequent damaging "S Waves") so quickly, that an alert can be sent out to us, enabling us to initiate automatic systems that shut off feed and distribution valves, thus preventing a significant loss of water.
- 2) We've installed earthquake valves at both of our water reservoirs that will close automatically to prevent water loss in the event of significant earth movement. Once we have inspected our water system to ensure there are no breaks, or repaired any breaks that have occurred, these valves will be reopened to allow water to flow just as it did before an earthquake. Following this example, you may likewise want to consider having an earthquake shut off valve installed on your residential gas line.
- 3) We are in the process of constructing emergency water filling stations at our reservoirs, which will enable you to come fill up your own water containers, in case a water main breaks in your neighborhood and/or at your workplace.
- 4) We've begun adding voluntary emergency contact information to all of our accounts. Please email us at [customerservice@northcitywater.org](mailto:customerservice@northcitywater.org), or give us a call at 206.362.8100 and let us know how you prefer to be contacted—by email, by text message, or by phone call (or all of the above).

*Please take a moment to contact us today with your preferences so we can keep you updated in the event of an emergency!*

North City

WATER DISTRICT

NORTH CITY WAVES

Issue 4: October • November • December 2019

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

Every year, the District's financial information is reviewed by Moody's. *The District continues to receive an Aa3 rating, which is about the highest rating a utility of our size could get.* Their resulting report provides current economic and financial information about our District to the investors who purchased the low interest bonds we use for water system upgrades. We are pleased to report that this year's review was very good, resulting in an ongoing solid, stable credit rating. One of the reasons cited for our continued high rating is our consistent reinvestment in infrastructure. Because this high rating makes system maintenance more affordable, thus allowing us to proactively address infrastructure, it also allows us to make smaller rate adjustments over time, despite ongoing increases in the cost of water and service. Stay tuned for our budget, rates, and the report from Moody's to be posted on our website at: [www.northcitywater.org/resources/financial-statements-and-audits](http://www.northcitywater.org/resources/financial-statements-and-audits)

### HAVE YOU CONTACTED US YET?

Let us know how you prefer to be contacted in the event of a natural disaster or emergency.

Tell Us by E-mail:  
[customerservice@northcitywater.org](mailto:customerservice@northcitywater.org)  
Call Us: 206.362.8100

- Three Ways to Stay in Touch
- 1) Join [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) for neighborhood news and notices
  - 2) Follow us on [www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict](http://www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict)
  - 3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our website at [www.northcitywater.org](http://www.northcitywater.org)
- North City Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by North City Water District

- The Cost of New Development
- Location Requests Rising
- Project Update: New Maintenance Facility
- Community Updates and Calendar
- Update on Natural Disaster Emergency Preparations

### Inside This Issue

PO Box 55367  
1519 NE 177th Street  
Shoreline, Washington 98155  
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), 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](http://www.northcitywater.org) • [f](https://www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict) / NorthCityWaterDistrict





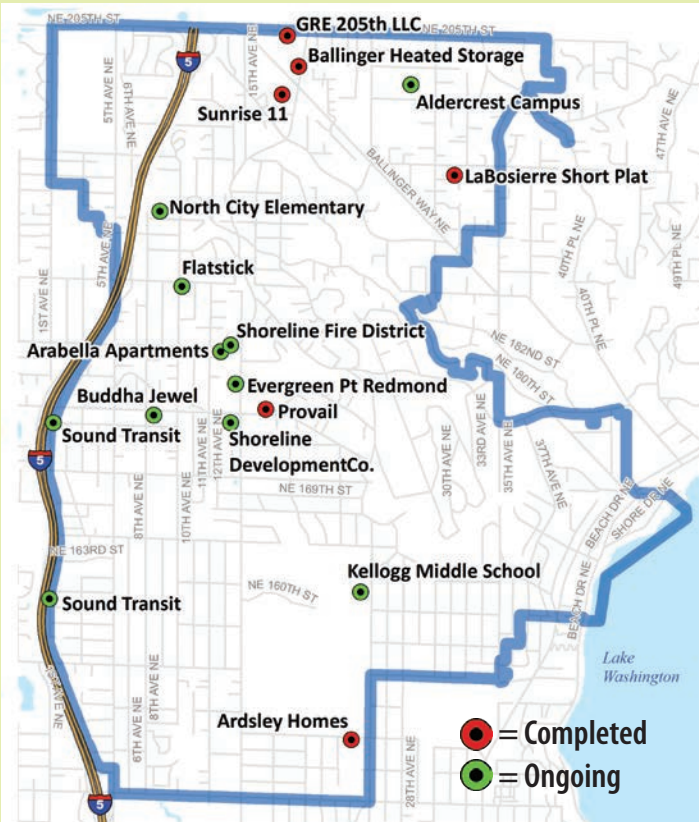


# The Cost of New Development in Our Area

New development requires new utility connections, including water service. How do we cover the cost of all these new water connections while keeping your rates affordable?

When a new property is connected to the District's water system, the Fire Department first identifies how much water is required to provide adequate fire flow. Shortly after, our staff works with the developer to review all details of the proposed project to see what needs to be done from a connection standpoint.

In some cases, the developer can simply connect to our existing water system after they pay a connection charge. In other cases, they may need to make improvements to the existing system to ensure fire flow is adequate for the new development. Sometimes, we're able to negotiate public/private partnerships for developer extension agreements that benefit the entire water system. When this happens, they construct the improvements using the same set of standards we follow on our own projects.



The map included below left depicts the following developments that improved the water system as part of a developer's overall development budget:

- Sunrise 11: 60 unit apartment complex 20015 Ballinger Way NE
- Ardsley Homes: 6 single family residences 2355 NE 150th St.
- Ballinger Heated Storage Partners: commercial space 20029 19th Ave. NE
- GRE 205th LLC: 72 unit apartment complex 1795 NE 205th St.
- LaBosierre Short Plat: 4 single family residences 3035 NE 195th St.
- Provail: commercial space on 1548 NE 175th St.
- Evergreen Pt. Redmond: 122 unit apartment complex 17563 15th Ave. NE
- Sound Transit Early Work: 1st Ave NE and NE 174th St. and 1st Ave NE between NE 159th and 161st St.
- Shoreline Developmt. Co: 243 unit apartment complex 17233 15th Ave. NE
- Buddha Jewel Monastery: 17418 8th Ave. NE
- Arabella Apartments: 81 unit apartments 1221 NE 180th St.
- Shoreline Fire District New Station: 1410 NE 180th St.
- North City Elementary School: 816 NE 190th St.
- Aldercrest Campus: 2800 NE 200th St.
- Kellogg Middle School: 16045 25th Ave. NE
- Flatstick: 6 single family residences: 1003 NE 185th St.

## Location Requests Rising

Ever wonder what those colorful markings are on the street or sidewalk near you? These are "location requests" that help property owners, developers, and contractors know where the underground utilities are located.

So far this year, the District has received 1719 locates, and is expected to reach a record high number of requests by the end of the year—each of which requires a site visit by District personnel—which impacts our operational costs.

Why is the number so high? State law requires a Location Request if the ground is going to be dug deeper than 12 inches. During 2017, the placement of real estate signs was included in this requirement. Meanwhile our area's surge in new development, as well as changes in zoning, have prompted an ever-increasing number of location requests, as property owners consider redeveloping single- or multi-family lots with multiple residences.

When you see these colorful markings on the street or sidewalk, see if you can decipher our code!

### Paint Colors Used in Location Requests:

Proposed Excavation
Temporary Survey
Electric Power
Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum
Communications, Alarm or Signal, Cables or Conduit
Potable Water
Reclaimed Water, Irrigation, Slurry Lines
Sewer and Drain Lines



All photos courtesy of Faber Construction

## Project Update: New Maintenance Facility

Construction continues on our new Maintenance Facility, with the walls up and the roof about to be added. Soon after, the contractor will start preparing for the plumbing, electrical and heating systems, along with sheetrock inside the crew facility. By early February, we expect the contractor to complete the interior construction of the new crew facility, at which point, the contractor's temporary office on the site will be demolished to make way for the crew's parking lot. Meanwhile, rebar is being placed for the backup generator's concrete slab, and in the bottom of the Decant Structure. If you don't know what a Decant Structure does, look for the description in our last newsletter! Last but not least, framing has begun for the footings of the metal building; its construction will begin later this month or in early December.

