



## New Director of Finance

*Please give a warm welcome to Kern Maresca!*

After an extensive search and a series of interviews with multiple candidates, we are pleased to announce our new Director of Finance, Kern Maresca!

Kern's diverse background includes over thirty years of experience in Finance and Accounting for companies ranging in size from Fortune 500, to under a dozen employees. In addition to his accounting expertise, and an endless supply of curiosity across a wide spectrum of fields, he has more than twenty years of experience in senior management—something that was particularly important to our small, collaborative management team.

When not behind a desk, Kern and his wife are avid cyclists, riding at least 5,000 miles a year, including cross-continental treks. He's also backpacked through Central America, and traveled through numerous countries.

On the weekends, Kern enjoys providing administrative support for his wife's real estate business.

Why North City Water District? "I'm intrigued by the opportunity to continue my path of service to my community, and being cost efficient, realistic and strategic to solve real world challenges," says Kern. "I'm also looking forward to a smaller organization where I can have insight and involvement across the entire spectrum."

Over the next month, our District Manager will be working closely with Kern to ensure a smooth transition and understanding of North City Water District, including our philosophy of long term conservative fiscal planning—an approach that has made our District so successful throughout our 90 year history.



## Raising Water Valves in Lake Forest Park

Throughout the City of Lake Forest Park, District staff have been busy preparing our water valves for an upcoming resurfacing project taking place on several city streets. Each valve needs to be raised so that it will sit flush with the surface after the contractor finishes grinding and overlaying the street with new pavement.



Issue 3: July • August • September 2021

Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

### From Our President...

by Patricia Hale, Board President

As the newest of your three commissioners (since January 2019), I have spent much of my time learning about the water industry. It continues to amaze me how many of the things we routinely do are easy to take for granted... often because they're hidden underground. I recently joined our Operations Manager in an inspection of our many different system components—most of which are not readily seen by the public. I was impressed by how clean, well maintained and in great operating condition they all were. Understanding where we get our water from, how it is treated to ensure it is safe to drink, how it gets delivered to you at closely-monitored pressures, as well how well-prepared this District is for emergencies has made me extremely proud. One of the roles of your Board of Commissioners is to take a very long-term look at system improvements, including the way new development connections can help improve our system to ensure North City Water District's water system continues to surpass national standards for generations to come. Starting with this newsletter, we will begin celebrating our 90th anniversary year by telling you the story of your water district's journey to become the excellent special purpose utility we are today.

AS OF AUGUST 2021  
WE'RE CELEBRATING  
**90 YEARS**  
1,080 MONTHS  
4,696 WEEKS  
32,872 DAYS  
788,924 HOURS  
OF CONTINUOUS  
WATER SERVICE  
**EXCELLENCE**



### Know your garden: winning the war on water use

Thursday, September 2nd, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Presented by Marianne Binetti, courtesy of North City Water District

### Perma-what? Designing your own permaculture paradise

Wednesday, September 8th, 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Presented by Jessi Bloom, courtesy of King County Water District #90

### Native Plants: Combining beauty with water conservation

Tuesday, September 14th, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Presented by Peggy Campbell, Horticulturist

**All classes are currently being held online, until further notice.**  
**For more information, visit Saving Water Partnership's website**  
**at: [www.savingwater.org/lawn-garden/gardening-classes/](http://www.savingwater.org/lawn-garden/gardening-classes/)**

## Come Meet Your Water District!

Sunday October 3

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

We're beyond thrilled to finally have the opportunity to host our first community education and information booth in over two years at the Lake Forest Park Farmer's Market in early October. Even though we'll all be outdoors, we still plan to maintain social distancing and masks for everyone's safety.

Here's what you'll find when you stop by: all sorts of information about water conservation, all sorts of water-wise gardening tips and advice for fall gardens, District staff on hand to answer your water-related questions, and useful give-aways including water bottles, hand sanitizer, and make and take projects for kids.

*We look forward to seeing you there!*



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

Patricia Hale (President), Ron Ricker (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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### Three Ways to Stay in Touch

- From Our President
- Our 90 Year History: Part 1 of 4
- Ongoing Infrastructure Maintenance
- Welcoming Our New Director of Finance
- Free Savvy Gardener Classes
- Meet Your District at LFP Farmer's Market

### Inside This Issue

PO Box 55367  
1519 NE 177th Street  
Shoreline, Washington 98155  
206.362.8100





# 90 Years of Excellence

## The Story of North City Water District, Part 1 of 4

It's hard to believe this year marks the 90th anniversary of the North City Water District. Imagine being one of those handful of individuals who got together and decided it was time to give our area their very own water utility. They had to have the foresight to look ahead, and the determination to plan a system that would meet the needs of both existing and future residents—an approach we've continued to uphold every year since then.

Originally called King County Water District No. 42, we were founded by a majority vote of local residents, who then voted to elect our first commissioners: H.A. Cross, William G. Munro, and L.H. Coffel. The commissioners then selected engineers and attorneys to help plan the development of the district, including:

- **Financing:** an estimate for setting up basic services, along with identifying the most affordable way for residents to raise the money. Funds were established for construction, maintenance, and bond funding.
- **Sourcing:** choosing the source of water—whether from nearby wells, purchasing from the City of Seattle or Everett, or developing our own water source from a lake or river.
- **Infrastructure:** both transmission and distribution water mains had to be laid out with appropriate planning for future County development, along with the construction of a water storage tank to manage water pressure throughout the system.

On Saturday, September 30, 1933, a special election was held and these first steps forward were approved.

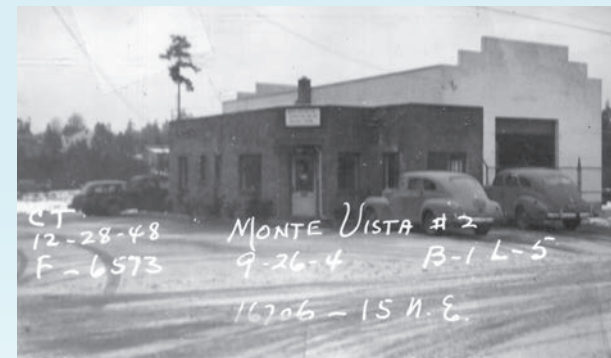
Fast forward 90 years and we still do many of the same things today: (1) commissioners are elected by residents; (2) attorneys and engineers guide us on specific actions; (3) staff and consultants help us address long-term financial affordability; (4) we are negotiating another long term wholesale contract with Seattle for our water source; (5) we continue to plan, inspect, maintain and upgrade our infrastructure and system components to meet the land use planning identified by our cities; (6) reservoirs continue to be utilized for water storage and emergency supply (with regular inspections and maintenance to extend their life). However these basic procedures have been overlaid with newer technologies, materials, and regulations, all of which require more staff, more training, more equipment and vehicles to manage the ever-improving water system operations.

Over the next 12 months, we're planning to share the full story of our 90 year journey, decade by decade, in this newsletter and on our blog. Our goal is to give you a first-hand look into the level of foresight, planning, and dedication that has gone into making your special purpose water utility one of the best in the nation.

90 YEARS • 1931–2021



First District building constructed in 1936



Second District building constructed in 1946



Today's Headquarters Building



Today's Maintenance Building

## Ongoing Maintenance of Your Water System Infrastructure

*Since we don't have a large, visible project currently under construction, we thought it would be timely to share eight of our most recent capital improvement projects—examples of our regular and ongoing infrastructure maintenance that help us ensure a safe and efficient water system while minimizing the financial impact to our customers.*

### CIP 2021.01

#### 2.0 MG Reservoir Maintenance

All of the District's reservoirs undergo regular inspections and repainting / surface recoating. Our most recent investigation of the 2.0 million gallon (MG) Reservoir identified the need for several internal upgrades, including a new PAX Mixer to ensure proper water movement and quality. Engineering consultant Murraysmith is providing assessment, design and construction services.

### CIP 2021.02

#### 8" Water Main Replacement on 25th Avenue NE

The District has repaired multiple breaks in the 8" cast iron water main located on 25th Avenue NE between Ballinger Way and Forest Park Drive. Upon investigation, our staff found the water main had significantly deteriorated, and recommended replacing it with approximately 400' of new 8" ductile iron pipe, along with seven new service lines. David Evans and Associates is providing survey, outreach, design, permitting and construction services.

### CIP 2021.03

#### 30th Ave NE Service Lines

After repairing multiple leaks in a 2" water main that services six private properties along 30th Avenue NE, District staff investigated and found the water main had significantly deteriorated. Because we have no easements to these properties to

access the main for repairs, our staff recommended it be replaced with individual service lines, thus eliminating a future loss of water service as well complications over private property access. David Evans and Associates is providing survey, outreach, design, permitting and construction services.

### CIP 2021.04

#### Beach Drive Creek Crossing

In November 2019, the District discovered that the water main crossing the creek on Beach Drive NE had been cut and capped years ago with no maps showing the work. We hired KPG Engineering to analyze and design an alternative, given their experience with permitting for creek crossing projects.

### CIP 2021.05 - CIP Project 131A

#### 200th Avenue Water Main

The District is preparing to install approximately 300' of 12" water main in the area around 20001 NE 200th Street, as identified in our long-term capital improvement program. Engineering consultant BHC is providing design, permitting and as-built services.

### CIP 2021.06

#### 3.7 MG Reservoir PAX Mixer Replacement

When the District's 3.7 MG reservoir was due for routine cleaning and maintenance, we also replaced its PAX Mixer to ensure proper water movement and quality.



PAX Mixer action inside a reservoir; image courtesy of paxwater.com

### 2021.08

#### Emergency Response Plan Update

America's Water Infrastructure Act (S. 3021), more commonly referred to as AWIA, was signed into federal law in October 2018 to establish accountability and best practices. It also lays out new compliance standards that give water utilities the opportunity to incorporate potential emergencies in their assessments and planning efforts, from newer risks such as cyber security, to age-old risks like natural disasters. Water utilities the size of North City Water District are required to have their Risk and Resiliency assessments completed by June 30, 2021 and review/update their Emergency Response Plan by December 31, 2021. We are pleased to say we have completed our assessment and are currently working on updating our Emergency Response Plan.

### 2021.09

#### New Maintenance Facility

After the higher costs of an inflated construction market caused us to phase this project, we are finally able to enclose the last two maintenance bays of this facility and add a roof to the enclosure. The project will go out to bid in the next couple weeks and be completed shortly after.