

In Case of Emergency:

Please share your emergency contact info

We always have a crew member on call 24 hours a day for emergencies, and we're grateful to be able to post alerts on Facebook and Nextdoor, but for those of you not on social media, we would appreciate it if you could tell us the best way to communicate with you.

Do we have your current email address or phone number so we can reach you in the event of an emergency?

Email us at community@northcitywater.org or give us a call at 206.362.8100 and let us know how you would prefer to be contacted.

LAST FREE GARDENING CLASS OF THE YEAR

DESIGNING THE NORTHWEST GARDEN

Wednesday September 18 • 6:30–8:00 pm

LEARN MORE AT WWW.NORTHCITYWATER.ORG

NORTH CITY WAVES

A newsletter for water-related issues and info

Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

Issue 3: July • August • September 2024

From Our Board...
Patricia Hale, Board President

The feature article inside this quarter's newsletter is a bit unique for us. Early in July, we received an inquiry from a customer whose daughter had a number of questions about the water system that her parents couldn't answer. In the spirit of providing education to our community, which is one of the core tenets of our service, we were delighted to invite "Vivian" and her parents to meet with us to answer all her questions.

Do you have children who are curious about where their water comes from, and how it gets to the home? Feel free to share the article inside this newsletter, bring them with you to our Information Booth at Lake Forest Park's "Picnic in the Park" on September 7, where we'll be happy to answer their questions and offer them a water activities backpack (pictured at right), and consider a visit to the Cedar River Watershed Education Center (info at the end of the article). Coming into our office to pay a bill? If your children are with you, be sure to show them our "water system component" display in our lobby!

Our "Kids Water Activity" backpacks



Help Us Keep Your Water Meters and Fire Hydrants Accessible

Servicing water meters is usually straightforward, unless we have to search for the meter in overgrown foliage, or worse, perform tree and shrub maintenance before we can locate it.

The same is true of fire hydrants—routine maintenance tasks take much longer when we have to clear away vegetation, and could prevent fire department access during an emergency.

Help us keep you and our community safe...

- Trim away any shrubs or ground covers that are hiding the equipment.
- When buying new plants, verify their size upon maturity: don't plant anything that will eventually cover your meter or hydrant.
- Don't install landscape bricks, rocks, or retaining walls that block access to your water meter or fire hydrant.

Washington State Representative Davina Duerr Awarded for Her Efforts on Behalf of Special Purpose Districts



Rep. Duerr (D-District 1) has consistently supported and defended special purpose sewer and water districts, most recently in supporting Substitute House Bill 1621-S that gives us greater flexibility to self-perform infrastructure projects, which will result in substantial cost savings to our ratepayers. She is also instrumental in most of the legislation affecting district operations and elections in her role as Chair for the House Local Government Committee. On August 14, North City Water District joined other districts and the Executive Director of the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) to formally recognize and present Rep. Duerr with a plaque to commemorate WASWD member appreciation for her service.

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.

206.362.8100 • www.northcitywater.org • [f](https://www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict) / NorthCityWaterDistrict

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Three Ways to Stay in Touch:

- 1) Email customerservice@northcitywater.org to have your email address added to your account for alerts, news, free classes and more
- 2) NextDoor: <https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/wa/shoreline/north-city-water-district/>
- 3) Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict

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

Educating Our Community—No Matter Their Age

Recently we received an interesting request from a mother searching for resources she could share with her 4-year-old daughter, who wanted to know how and where our water comes from. We were delighted to invite “Vivian” and her parents to come visit us in person where we could share our passion for all things water!

Vivian and her parents put together a list of questions in advance to make sure we addressed everything, and on a warm summer day in July, this lovely young lady arrived at our office, ready to know more. We thought you might enjoy learning about our water system from her eyes.

Our Director of Operations and Engineering, Max Woody, and our District Manager, Diane Pottinger, P.E., invited Vivian into our conference room, where they had assembled a variety of resources and component samples for her to see and touch.

At first she seemed quite shy, but after looking around and checking things out, she was ready to get straight to her questions:

1) How does water get in the reservoir?

There are three different sized pumps. One size works all night, another size works during the day when we are showering, doing laundry, or watering our lawns, and great big pumps work when we need a lot of water, like when there’s a big fire.

2) Is there a big pipe going into the reservoir?

Yes, there is — we held our arms out to show the size of a 24” diameter water main, and gave her one of our coloring books for kids (pictured at right) that includes a drawing of water coming from the watershed to the tap.



3) Where does our water come from?

Here in Shoreline, most of the year we get our water from the Tolt Watershed, which is located in East King County, near the town of Duvall. We pay the City of Seattle to deliver it to us; we were the first water district to officially buy water from the City in the 1930s.

Back then, the water was sourced from the Cedar River Watershed. Then in the mid-1960s (we asked Vivian how old her grandparents were to help her realize how long ago this was),

a second source of water called the Tolt Watershed was added. It brought water across the north end of lake Washington, then south to Seattle, right through our service area. So now we connect to two water sources: the Cedar and the Tolt.

4) - What do you do with the water?

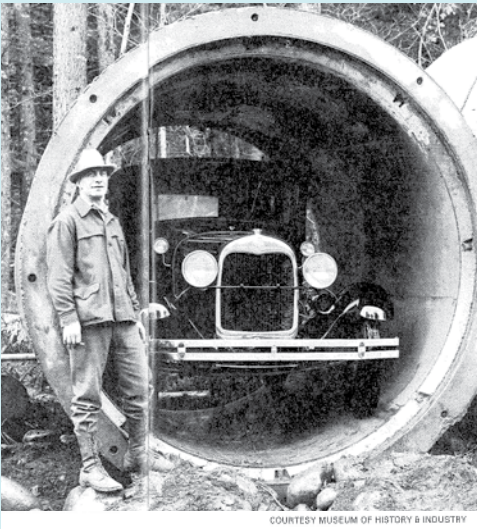
First the water is treated to make sure it’s safe to drink, before it gets distributed to everyone.

5) How does the water get cleaned?

There are water treatment plants located near the watershed. Chemicals are added to help heavier parts of the water settle out—like how sand might get in the water after playing at the beach—so it gets clear and very clean.

6) Does this water go to my house?

Yes, this water from the Tolt watershed goes to your house! Vivian’s parents shared their address, and we told Vivian that the water main in front of her house was replaced about 10 years ago with a pipe similar to this photo (shown above) but not quite big enough for a car to drive through.



We then came out to our front lobby where we have all sorts of water system components on display, including water meters, meter boxes, water service and even a fire hydrant.

We showed Vivian the ductile iron pipe that is used for our new water lines, and the copper pipe that goes from the ductile iron pipe to the water meter. We showed her what it looks like inside the water meter box at her house, which her dad planned to open up with her to check out themselves when they got home.



We also showed her examples of the different types of pipes that are found on the “customer side” of the meter box (from a display we have been using for our lead service line project).

Vivian’s next questions were about our 3.7 MG reservoir, which she passes every day on her way to daycare, and in particular, the reservoir’s ladder and stairs she noticed through the fence.

7) What do you use the ladder for?

Max explained that when our 3.7 MG reservoir was originally built in 1976,



our crew members used the ladder to go up to the top of the reservoir to look in on the water from the top.

8) Who goes up the ladder?

Our maintenance workers. In 1995 we added the curved stairs to make things safer for our workers.

9) Who works at the reservoir?

Seven crew members visit the reservoir regularly to check that everything is working properly, and to test the water quality so we can compare it to the information on our computers.

10) How does a reservoir get made?

This reservoir is a steel reservoir, so it was made in big sheets that were welded together onsite. We also have a shorter reservoir located in Lake Forest Park that is made of concrete.

Thank you Vivian and Your Parents!

We were so thrilled to hear such great questions from a young lady who clearly cares about the world in which we live, and honored to assist her parents, Ellen and Sylvester Cann in providing Vivian with the answers. We ended the interview by giving Vivian a kid’s backpack full of water-related activities. (If you haven’t gotten one yet, just stop by our office during business hours, Monday–Thursday.)

For more family-friendly information about your water, consider visiting the Cedar River Watershed Education Center near North Bend. Learn more at:

www.seattle.gov/utilities/protecting-our-environment/our-water-sources/cedar-river-watershed/education-center



North City Water District was once again honored to serve as one

of the music venues, sponsors, and volunteers for the 16th annual North City Jazz Walk on August 13 this year—an event that celebrates the community spirit and supports local businesses in the North City neighborhood and beyond.



Bob Heivilin and Mike Oberstadt in North City Water District's information booth at Celebrate Shoreline last month

Mark Your Calendars for Lake Forest Park’s Picnic in the Park

This free, family-friendly event will feature live music, a petting zoo, kid’s attractions and activities, food trucks, Public Works Big Rigs, and all sorts of community and educational booths including one from North City Water District.

Saturday September 7, 2024
2:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Animal Acres Park
17435 Brookside Blvd NE
Lake Forest Park, WA

Come say hello, pick up all sorts of helpful information, and let us answer your water-related questions!