



Who is that Masked Santa...

Amidst all the changes and adjustments that COVID-19 continues to impose on our lives, our Commissioners believe that some traditions are too important to miss.

For this reason, we've decided to go ahead with our annual Holiday Tree Lighting—even if it means we can't gather at our usual Les Schwab parking lot for in-person festivities on the night of the first lighting.

Starting Saturday December 5, and continuing every night during the month of December, our long-standing tradition for the nightly lighting of the "tree" atop our water reservoir will continue... in hopes of inspiring everyone in our community to keep their holiday spirit going strong.

Help spread the spirit... between now and December 17, drop off a brand new, unwrapped present suitable for a child at the Les Schwab Tire Center in Shoreline (17754 15th Avenue NE). Your donated gifts will be re-gifted to kids in need throughout our community.

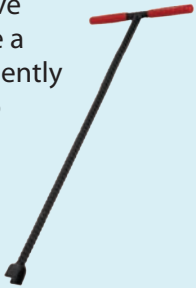


Don't Forget to Winterize!

Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes with these simple steps:

1. Disconnect and drain all garden hoses.
2. Insulate exterior pipes and faucets with newspaper, rags, or insulating material, then cover with plastic and secure with string or wire. You can also use electric heat tape.
3. Insulate interior pipes and faucets located in cold areas of your home (including unheated attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces) the same way as Step 2.
4. Locate your main water shut-off valve to make sure it works and you know how to use it—prior to an emergency—so you are prepared to stop excessive water loss and flooding if a pipe breaks.

Depending on the shape of your valve (round or lever) you may need to use a wrench to turn the valve firmly but gently in a clockwise direction. You can also turn off your water at the meter box by using a "Water Meter Valve Key" tool (shown at right; ~\$15 at most hardware stores).



5. If you have a yard sprinkler system, drain and blow out the system completely.
6. On extra cold nights, open the doors of closets or cabinets that are located near water pipes on your home's exterior walls.
7. If you don't mind a slightly higher utility bill, let one indoor faucet slowly drip warm water overnight during spells of below-freezing temperatures. Just don't do this in a house that will be vacant for an extended time.
8. For maximum protection, apply caulk around incoming pipes, and close or block your home's foundation vents during the coldest months (open them up once the threat of freezing has passed to prevent dry rot).

If you need help, give us a call at 206.362.8100.

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, President

The year 2020 has been challenging at nearly every level of our lives. Looking back on what we've all been through, we're proud that we've been able to continue providing high quality water service, despite the pandemic's impacts on our operations and finances. And we're particularly grateful for the current and past members of our Board of Commissioners, who have long upheld a philosophy of regular, proactive system investments, using foresight and careful planning to focus on projects that yield the utmost value to our community. This approach has allowed us to not only maintain a water system that is far above the national average, but to address unforeseen impacts such as COVID-19 with confidence. Key to this philosophy is making your water bills as predictable as possible through small, annual, incremental rate increases. However this year, in light of the many challenges our community is facing, our Board has decided to postpone a rate increase during 2021 in order to give our community a chance to get back on their feet again. *We wish you and your family health, peace, and a positive start to the new year!*

Financial Assistance

Struggling to pay your water bill due to COVID? We can help!

- Program 1: COVID-19-Impacted Low Income Rate Reduction
- Program 2: COVID-19-Impacted Deferred Payment Plan
- Program 3: Low Income Reduced Water Rate Reduction

Call 206.362.8100 or Visit:
www.bit.ly/ncwdassist
(all lower case)

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

website at www.northcitywater.org

(3) Sign up for news, alerts, free classes and more on our

(2) Follow us on www.facebook.com/NorthCityWaterDistrict

(1) Join www.nextdoor.com for neighborhood news and notices

Three Ways to Stay in Touch

- Commissioner's Update: no rate increase!
- New Maintenance Facility Complete!
- Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Soon!
- How to Winterize Your Pipes

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Photo by Steven H. Robinson
www.ShorelineAreaNews.com

Our New Maintenance Facility is (Essentially) Done!

After more than 30 years of planning and creative responses to various setbacks... we can't wait to occupy our new facility this winter!

Back in 1946, when the District was serving a total of 1720 customers, we purchased our very first property at the corner of 15th Avenue NE and 169th Street NE and began operating all of our activities from there. By 1995, our service area had grown to nearly 8200 customers, and we were no longer able to house everything in one location. We purchased a second property—the old Key Bank building near 15th and 177th NE—and after a bit of remodeling to make it work, moved our administrative operations there. Meanwhile our maintenance functions stayed behind at the first location, where ever-increasing space and operational constraints prompted us to begin exploring a variety of options for expansion or relocation. When every available option fell through,



Entry photo by Steven H. Robinson, www.ShorelineAreaNews.com

it seemed those doors had closed so we could find the perfect solution: a site at 15555 15th Avenue NE—close to our administrative headquarters, and ample for all of our needs, both now and into the future. After occupying the same facility for more than 75 years, our maintenance crews are beyond thrilled to move into their new home (awaiting one final permit), with a state-of-the-art facility that will support far more technical operations than any of us ever foresaw in 1946.



The separate Vehicle Maintenance facility has room to store all of our vehicles under cover.



Inside the new Vehicle Maintenance facility, with convenient storage racks between bays.



The Vehicle Maintenance Facility includes a special bay for our large vactor truck.



Our site's innovative bioswale helps mitigate parking lot and stormwater run-off.



A separate Decant Facility allows our vactor truck to empty its tank on a sloped concrete pad, where the debris can be washed, separated, and dried before being removed.



Crew desk cubicles and centrally located map/planning table with space for holding plans.

One of the most unique features of our facility is located on the southwest corner of the site, in the middle of a large grassy area. Designed by LPD Engineering, our new “bioswale” will address stormwater and parking lot run-off with a more natural, environmentally friendly approach. Catch basins collect rainwater and surface runoff from the parking lot and vehicle maintenance areas, where it is routed through a piped conveyance system into a separator

vault for initial treatment. From there it drains into the bioswale, where a mixture of plants, soils, and sandy aggregates filter the liquids down through a perforated drain pipe before being discharged off-site. Not only will our bioswale handle stormwater run-off from over an acre of paved surface, it will also reduce the downstream impact on the public drainage system. The added benefit? We'll have enough open land available for a future reservoir as the needs of our community unfold!

1989

District begins exploring options for expanding current maintenance building, including existing property analysis.

1991

New combined Admin/Office/Shop proposed; District makes offer to King County on Brugger's Bog property; offer declined.

2005

District makes second offer on Brugger's Bog property; offer declined.

2012

King County sells Brugger's Bog to the City of Shoreline.

2013

District approaches City of Shoreline re: sharing Brugger's Bog; when the City was unable to commit, we purchased the NW Church property site.

2014

Conditional use permit granted for NW Church property; church leases property while constructing their new church elsewhere.

2016

NW Church moves to new location. District selects architect and begins exploring design options during Site Master Plan.

2017

Design begins. City of Shoreline inquires about collocating maintenance activities on our new site; is unable to commit within our design timeframe.

2018

Construction phased due to heated construction market. Phase I Site Work contract signed. Phase II Construction contract too expensive.

2019

Reduced Phase II Building Construction contract signed; construction begins.

2020

Phase II Building Construction complete for Winter occupancy.