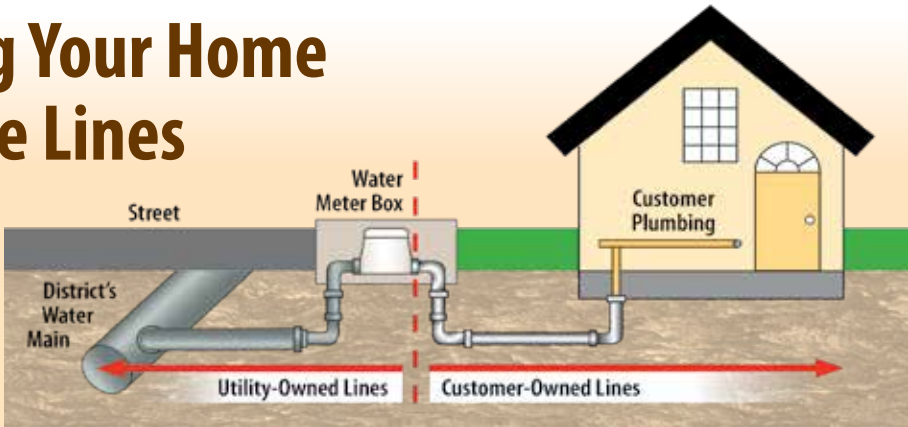


We May Be Inspecting Your Home for Lead Water Service Lines

As reported in our last two newsletters, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington state's Department of Health is requiring all public water suppliers to develop an inventory of water services to identify any that may contain lead.



North City Water District staff are building a database of every property in our service area (roughly 8,300 accounts) that identifies the date when water lines were installed, both on our side of the meter, as well as yours. To do this, we're combing through historical contracts, design standards, and the King County Plumbing code back to when our first water mains were installed in 1936—to identify if lead was ever allowed in our system. We will then conduct physical inspections of roughly 370 residences, using the statistical approach recommended by our state's Department of Health.

If you are one of the ~370 homes identified for inspection, here's what to expect:

Our crews will open up your meter box to inspect your water service line materials. You do not need to be home, and no service outage will occur. If we're unable to confirm it that way, we'll reach out to schedule a second visit. During the second visit, we'll need access to your crawlspace or garage—wherever the water line enters the home—to inspect it there. Someone will need to be home, but no service outage will occur.

If we're still unable to confirm water line materials, we'll need to hydro-excavate a small pit on one or both sides of your water meter. You will be notified well in advance, and will only be out of service for a short time. We'll backfill the pit to its prior surface elevation, and either seed grass, or finish with landscape bark or crushed rock to match the surroundings.

Should we discover lead service lines at your property, you will be directly notified, however **we do not anticipate finding lead lines in our service area.** The final water service inventory will be available on our website.

How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

1. Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
2. Insulate *exterior* pipes and faucets.
3. Insulate *interior* pipes and faucets in cold areas (including unheated attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces).
4. Locate your main water shut-off valve and make sure you can turn it *prior* to an emergency.

Additional Precautions:

- If you have a yard sprinkler system, drain and blow out the system completely.
- On extra cold nights, open the doors of closets or cabinets located near water pipes on your home's exterior walls.
- 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 in order to prevent dry rot).



District Commissioner Charlotte Haines and Bob Heivilin, our Utility Worker Level V employee of 35 years, were both on hand at the Lake Forest Park "Picnic in the Park" event to meet customers, answer questions, talk about the upcoming water service line inventory, and demonstrate water conservation with our "Make Every Drop Count" bean bag toss game.

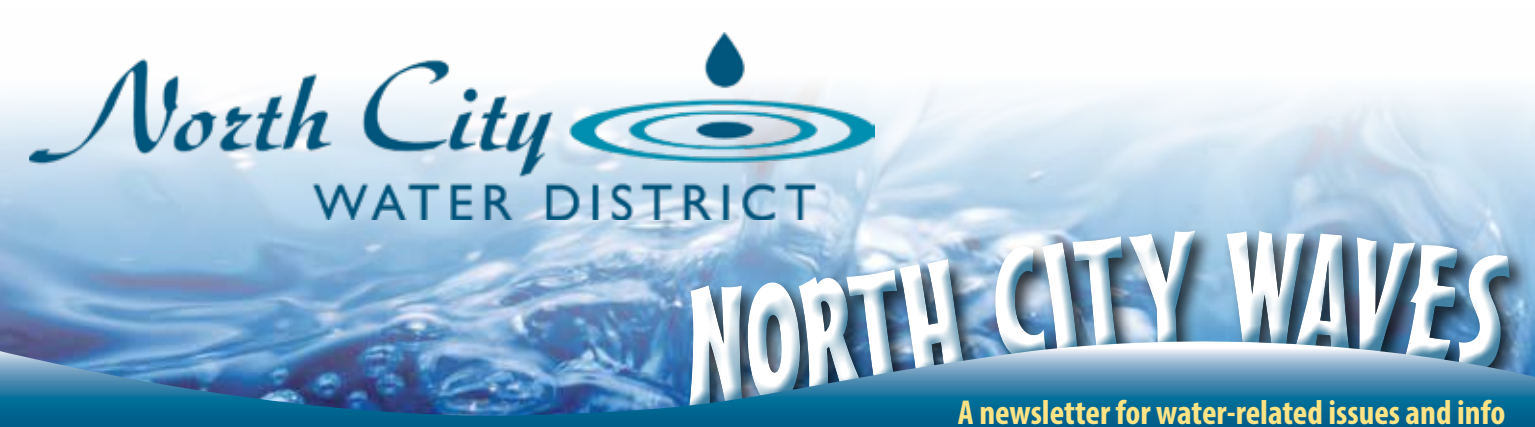
The North City Waves Newsletter is brought to you by North City Water District, and its Board of Commissioners:

Ron Ricker (President), Patricia Hale (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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Issue 4: October • November • December 2023

Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

by Ron Ricker, Board President

As the year draws to a close, we've been reflecting on the precious resource that is so easy to take for granted—water—in abundant supply, safe from contaminants, and delivered via solid infrastructure. All three of these aspects (supply, safety, and infrastructure) are becoming increasingly critical in a well-managed water utility. **Supply:** as global warming continues, our region's watersheds have seen less snowpack, resulting in lower than average supply. **Safety:** in addition to detecting new water contaminants such as PFAS (Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances), all water providers in the U.S. are currently working to identify water line materials to meet the new national 'Get the Lead Out' requirements by next year. **Infrastructure:** this is one of the areas that North City Water District is far ahead of the national curve, thanks to the our long-term philosophy of proactive system maintenance and improvements. Yet keeping up with these three issues, along with increasing regulations, new technologies, and steady inflation, has prompted the need for a modest rate increase. Learn more about how we're managing your water service in this newsletter.



Mark your calendars for the Annual Tree Lighting Festival on Saturday December 2, starting at 6:30 pm in the Les Schwab parking lot

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

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

Three Ways to Stay in Touch:

- System Redundancy and Resilience
- New Utility Maintenance Staff
- Update on Regional Water Supply
- Modest Rate Increase for 2024
- "Get The Lead Out" Inspections
- How to Prevent Frozen Pipes
- District attended LFP Picnic in the Park

Inside This Issue

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Redundancy and Resilience as the World Turns and the Earth Moves



During our Spring and Fall newsletters this past year, we’ve detailed a large number of projects within our service area, some related to development surrounding the Light Rail project, others involving capital improvements to our water system that enhance our system’s redundancy and resilience.

System redundancy means making sure we have multiple paths for water to reach every part of our system. Sometimes this entails replacing a smaller water main with a larger diameter in order to enhance the volume of available fire flow water for new developments. An example of this can be found along NE 155th Street, where previous developers upsized portions of the water main from a 6” to an 8” diameter pipe, so we are now replacing the remaining 6” portions with 8” in order to ensure steady water pressure along the entire street. Other times it means connecting two water mains along the western boundary of our system, where I-5 created two dead end streets years ago. By connecting these two mains, we create a continuous loop that facilitates more consistent water pressure and flow.

System resilience means making sure our water mains and system components can adapt to unforeseen situations, such as natural disasters, or more recently, increasing incidents of underground soil movement. By installing pipes with restraint joints, our water mains remain more resilient against shifting soils—whether due to small earthquake tremors, or a sudden saturation by a heavy rain after a prolonged dry season.

After speaking with other water districts in the area who are experiencing the same increase in water main breaks due to shifting soils underground, we’ve factored in additional time and funds to address this phenomenon in the upcoming years.

If you have questions about any of these projects, give us a call at 206.362.8100



Christian drawing a sample at one of our Water Quality Sampling Stations

Say Hello to Christian: our New Utility Level 1 Crew Member!

We’re excited to introduce Christian Eley, the newest member of North City Water District’s Utility Maintenance Crew. From testing systems while working as a fire inspector, to ensuring his coworkers had all the necessary tools and materials to do their jobs at McKinstry Construction, Christian brings the right blend of experience to assist us in a variety of maintenance efforts at the District.

As is customary for this position, every day on the job is different. “One day I could be checking meters for leaks, the next I might be tapping a water main to add a connection for a new home being constructed,” says he. Being a self-proclaimed “sponge for knowledge” has already come in handy and will serve him well as he grows with the District.

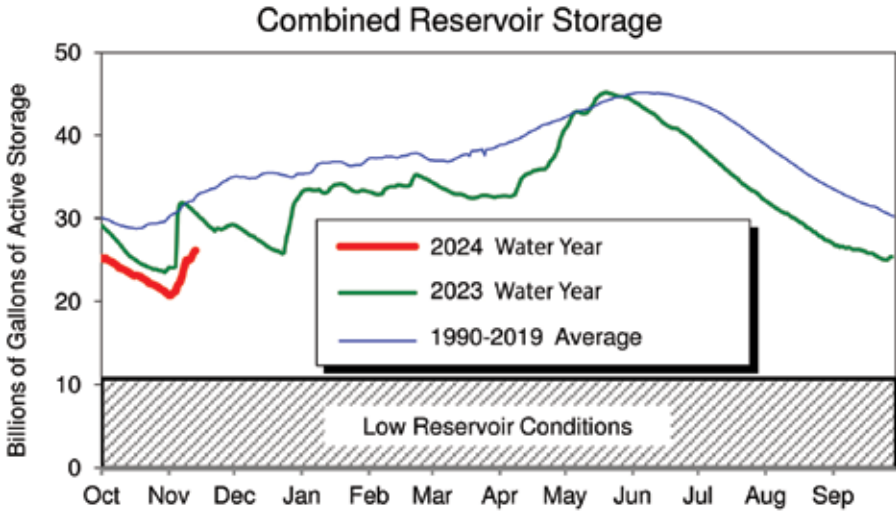
One of the qualities we love most is Christian’s willingness to go the extra mile. “I love that what I’m doing at the District gives me a chance to really benefit the community,” he said proudly.

When not on the job, Christian loves working on cars, particularly his 1966 Fairlane or 1989 Thunderbird SC.

Update on The Water Supply for Our Region

Voluntary water conservation measures continue to be necessary. Despite several episodes of heavy rain, the amount of water stored in our region’s watersheds is still noticeably below last year. One of these, the Tolt River Watershed, is still 19 feet below its long term average water for this time of year.

North City Water District has joined with local wholesale water purveyors in support of Seattle Public Utilities’ water shortage contingency plan. We continue to urge our customers to use water wisely: take shorter showers, wash only full loads of dishes and laundry, turn off the faucet when shaving or brushing your teeth... each of these efforts adds up. As of mid-November, our region is still averaging 105 million gallons a day (mgd) of water consumption; our goal is to achieve 100 mgd to enable our reservoirs to replenish.



With climate change causing longer, hotter, dryer summers, more wildfires, and reduced water supply, some customers have begun raising concerns about the amount of new development happening in our service area. As a special purpose utility district, we have no input or jurisdiction over development decisions. Our role is to ensure current water system standards are in place for new developments. We recommend contacting your City Planning and Community Development department with your development concerns.

Modest Rate Increase in 2024

During the Fall, North City Water District conducts an annual review of our financial status and develops a budget for the upcoming year. Copies of our budget presentations are available on our website; an overview of the dollars is presented below:

2024 Projected Revenue:

- Single Family Service Revenue**
\$5,934,705 (68% of our total revenue)
- Non-Single Family Service Revenue**
\$2,022,775 (23% of our total revenue)
- Other Revenues**
\$519,556 (6% of our total revenue)
- IRR Service Revenue**
\$137,461 (2% of our total revenue)
- Firelines Service Revenue**
\$70,885 (1% of our total revenue)

2024 Projected Expenses:

- Employee Costs**
\$2,307,980 (26% of our total costs)
- Purchased Water and Power**
\$1,561,670 (18% of our total costs)

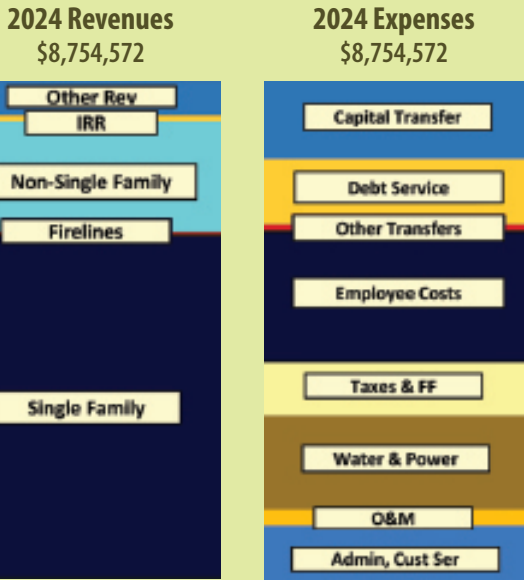
Operations & Maintenance, Admin, and Customer Service

- \$1,535,839 (17% of our total costs)
- Capital Transfer Costs**
\$1,200,000 (13% of our total costs)
- Debt Service**
\$1,076,937 (12% of our total costs)
- Taxes and Franchise Fees**
\$968,076 (11% of our total costs)
- Other Transfer Costs**
\$142,000 (2% of our total costs)

Balancing the Budget

One of the consequences of conserving water is the impact on District finances. 92% of the District’s revenue comes from water use; less consumption can create a revenue shortfall. Given the added impacts of inflation, the District must closely monitor and identify necessary adjustments to avoid overspending.

The most logical way to balance the 2024 budget was to modify the timing of upcoming capital expenditures. We



would need to do a number of capital projects next year and the following year, but will not start on new projects until we finalize our current projects.

We prefer to make small, annual, incremental rate increases rather than waiting as long as possible to make large rate increases, in order to make your water bills as predictable as possible. In light of all of these factors in 2023, our adopted 2024 budget will include a 4% rate increase. Please give us a call at 206.362.8100 if you have any questions.