

Community Activities

Summer is well underway and Shoreline Water District has already been enjoying several great community events, including Shoreline Community College’s Solar Fest on July 27th, where the focus was on sustainability, renewable energy and common sense solutions. If you didn’t get a chance to stop by that event, here are three more chances to have some family fun and come see us:

North City Jazz Walk Tuesday August 13 • 6 to 10pm

North City Business District is closing down 15th Avenue NE between 175th and 180th Streets for the 7th annual Jazz Walk. Shoreline Water District is thrilled to offer our new Meeting Room as one of the venues! www.northcityjazzwalk.org

Celebrate Shoreline Festival 2013 Saturday August 17 • 11am to 8pm (extended hours!)

A full week of festivities culminates on Saturday in beautiful Cromwell Park, with live music and entertainment, pony rides, a petting zoo, food vendors and more—including Shoreline Water District’s booth, where we’ll offer fun water-related activities for kids! <http://www.shorelinewa.gov/index.aspx?page=1049>



Final construction touches being added to the new Meeting Room

New Meeting Room Available at Shoreline Water District’s Expanded and Renovated Admin Building

With the completion of the District’s expanded and renovated Administration Building, our Board of Commissioners is pleased to offer an added benefit to our community: a free of charge meeting room for use by non-profits and other governmental agencies, featuring:

- Ample capacity: up to 64 people
- Large meeting table
- Adjacent public restrooms
- Able to be reserved on weekdays between 8am and 10pm, when not occupied by other District uses



In addition to the public meeting room, the building offers a much needed expansion to accommodate the operational needs of our growing service area, long-awaited public restrooms, as well as enhanced energy efficiency, seismic strengthening, and improved security. The parking lot has been expanded to accommodate meeting room usage, and the public’s much-loved drive through window and night drop box will once again be available. If you’d like to reserve the meeting room, view and download the complete Facility Use Agreement on our website at www.shorelinewater.org

SHORELINE
Water District
Excellence in Water Quality for Over 80 Years

SHORELINE WAVES

Issue 3: July • August • September 2013

A newsletter for water-related issues and info
Serving the communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park since 1931

From Our Board...

by Larry Schoonmaker, President

After many months of construction, during which our District’s operations were maintained from a temporary location, we are finally ready to move back into our expanded and remodeled Administration Building. **The office will be closed from Friday, August 9 through Monday August 12** for our move and transfer of utilities services. We expect to re-open at 8:30 am on Tuesday, August 13. Then at 7:00 pm that same evening, the **7th annual North City Jazz Walk** (www.northcityjazzwalk.org) will kick off with a new venue this year—Shoreline Water District’s **new Meeting Room!** Our Board of Commissioners is excited to offer this space to non-profits and other governmental agencies free of charge, beginning with the Shoreline Breakfast Rotary Club’s fundraiser for charitable projects we support, including the local food bank, college scholarships and foreign sanitation projects. Learn more on their website at: www.shorelinebreakfastrotary.com

2013
NORTH CITY
JAZZ
WALK

AUGUST 13, 2013
GRAB A JAZZ BITE ON THE STREET AT 6PM!
MUSIC STARTS AT 7PM!
15TH AVENUE NE, SHORELINE

15th Avenue NE will be shut down
between 175th and 180th Streets
from 6-10pm.

Update on District Finances

Despite the challenges of higher operating expenses in recent years due to the rising cost of water, Shoreline Water District is pleased to have received an ongoing Aa3 Bond Rating from Moody’s Investors Service, citing a “Healthy Financial Position Characterized by Strong Debt Service Coverage and Adequate Cash Reserves.” According to Moody’s, this confirmation is a direct reflection of Shoreline Water District’s “stable residential customer base, strong finances, history of prudent and timely rate adjustments, as well as a low debt profile.”

Shoreline Water District’s staff is committed to being good stewards of our ratepayers’ money, and has worked tirelessly to maintain a positive and stable financial condition. We believe our recent clean audit report and subsequent Aa3 Bond rating are a direct result of our strong financial policies, conservative budget planning, and diligent financial management. Stay tuned when we announce the results of two additional audits for finances and accountability.

Shoreline Waves Newsletter ~ a publication by Shoreline Water District

- Bottled Water Versus Tap Water
- Rebates for New Toilets
- New Employee: Val Tokumoto
- Gardener’s Corner
- Community Activities
- New Employee
- Update on District Finances
- New Meeting Room Available

Inside This Issue

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Bottled Water Versus Tap Water

Get the Real Facts...

By now, most people recognize the many health benefits of drinking water, including better digestion, circulation and the transport and absorption of nutrients. But does it make a difference where the water comes from?

Although there are many different ways to determine or define “better,” Shoreline Water District is proud of our water quality and confident that after comparing Tap Water to Bottled Water, you will agree that Tap Water is, by far, the better choice.

First, let’s talk money

On average, a bottle of water costs \$1.29 for about 16 ounces of water. On the other hand, one unit (748 gallons) of water from Shoreline Water District costs \$2.71. So, for about the amount you would pay for two bottles of water, you could fill up a 16 ounce water bottle 5,984 times. It seems clear: tap water is the better choice in terms of cost.

Next, let’s compare safety

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the main federal law that ensures the quality of our drinking water. The SDWA was originally passed by Congress in 1974 and was amended in 1986 and 1996 to ensure the protection of water and its sources.

Tap water is likewise regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). According to the EPA, public drinking water cannot have confirmed detections of E. coli, and it must contain a chlorine residual to prevent bacteria growth.



Locally speaking, our water comes from protected watersheds, and has been treated using filtering, ozonation and ultraviolet light, after which it is tested for hundreds of contaminants on a regular basis to ensure safety and good public health. As a final measure of safety, we are required by state and federal law to provide an annual water quality report (which was mailed out two months ago; if you did not receive your copy or would like an additional one, feel free to give us a call).

Compare this to bottled water, which is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. A certain amount of bacteria is allowable without action being taken. There are no federal filtration or disinfection requirements on the bottled water industry and NO disinfectant is present to kill bacteria in bottles, nor are there any reporting requirements.

With these differences in the regulations, it seems easy to deduce that drinking tap water is the safer option.



Students taking the water taste test at the Shoreline Science and Technology Fair and STEM Career Expo

Finally, let’s talk taste

The final comparison would be to ask the obvious question, “Which one tastes better?” This is a subjective question and varies from person to person, but we were curious to find out if the public could distinguish between the two sources of water, based on taste.

In order to find this out, we conducted a taste test at the STEM Career Expo on March 23, 2013 at Shoreline Community College. We found the majority of testers either couldn’t tell the difference between the two, or they said that the tap water tasted better. But don’t take their word for it, come decide for yourself: beginning on August 13, you can fill up your water bottle with our brand new water dispenser inside our remodeled Administration Office. Stop by and give it a try!

Rebates for New Toilets

Toilets are a household’s biggest water user—old models can use three to five gallons of water per flush, costing you money on your utility bill. Consider replacing it with our help!

For a limited time, customers who replace their old, water-guzzling toilet with a new toilet can earn the following rebates:

- \$30 for a (basic) WaterSense-labeled model
- \$75 for one of the newer 1.06 gallon per flush Premium WaterSense models



Get all the details:
www.savingwater.org
(206) 684-SAVE (7283)

Shoreline Water District Welcomes Valerie Tokumoto

our new

Field Inspector and Project Manager



The District is pleased to announce the newest member of our team: Valerie Tokumoto, PE, our new Field Inspector / Project Manager. She brings a broad range of relevant experience in civil engineering design, construction inspection and project management. In her previous position with BHC Consultants, Val was responsible for the design and planning of public utilities including water, wastewater and stormwater, ranging from project coordination to construction engineering support and observation. During this time she worked closely with Shoreline Water District staff on a variety of related projects, including the North City Pump Station, Supply Station No. 4, and a other water main improvements and extensions. Says Val, “Joining the District felt like a natural fit. I’m looking forward to it!”



Gardener’s Corner: free Plant Guidebook and a fun class!

Summer in the Pacific Northwest is often unpredictable. We’ll have a cold, rainy morning followed by an afternoon of warm sunshine; the next week it will be in the 90s for several days. Weather like this can make it more difficult to select plants that are well suited to our climate. Some plants need extra watering and attention while others are more drought-tolerant.

Before you start your garden or landscaping project, take time to closely observe your yard. How much sun or shade is available for each plant? What type of soil do you have? How much water will each plant need? With conservation always in mind, Shoreline Water District and the Saving Water Partnership recommend you download this free, handy Plant List that describes all sorts of regionally appropriate plants according to their needs. Download it at <http://savingwater.org/docs/PlantList.pdf>—or stop by our office to pick up a printed copy.

On September 19, 2013 from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Shoreline Water District will be hosting a “Fall Fireworks in the Garden” class. Although the class is free to the public, registration is required. To register and view a list of all of the free gardening classes that are available in the area, please visit www.savingwater.org/savvygardener. We look forward to seeing you!