

the Flow

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Irrigation Meter Buyers - Beware

Multifamily property customers of Northshore Utility District have been contacted recently by an out of state firm offering the installation of "private irrigation meters." The solicitor promised property owners significant savings in their water bills by installing such meters and indicated that as a form of payment, they would split the savings with property owners.

This approach will not work in Northshore Utility District because: (1) the District bills apartments and condos based on a fixed charge, and (2) the District will not accept "deduct" meters (the type of meter solicited) - an irrigation meter must be connected directly to the main line.

In an effort to protect our customers from improper plumbing and all health and property risks associated with it, the District prohibits the installation, modification, or removal of any District property, including mains and meters, without District consent and inspection.

If you are approached for such service, we strongly recommend you refer the solicitor to the District's Engineering Department at (425) 398-4401.

Did You Know . . .

- ◆ Freshwater makes up only 0.025% of the world's water resources.
- ◆ 1.4 billion people currently live without clean drinking water.
- ◆ 2.3 billion people lack adequate sanitation.
- Source: The World Water Council

Current Water Supply Outlook as of June 9, 2003

The summer water supply outlook is good, with mountain reservoir storage near normal for this time of year, although the winter snowpack was well below normal and has melted off early. We do not anticipate any atering restrictions, but ask that you please use water wisely. For the most current update, goto:

www.ci.seattle.wa.us/util/watersupply/current.htm



Good



Excellent



Good



Fair



Poor

2003 State of the District



By Commissioner Margaret Wiggins

The state of the District is excellent and getting better. Our rates for both water and sewer are lower than neighboring utilities. We have completed the yearly state audits with an "unqualified opinion" from the auditors. The District recently received an upgraded credit rating of "AA" from Standard and Poor's making us one of the highest rated municipalities in the state. Your Board takes pride in sticking to a budget and paying all bill on a timely basis.

We've begun a couple of new programs that will improve the infrastructure of the District. Connection fees for new developments were increased in order to proactively build new sewer lines for areas with failing septic systems. These construction projects take time but are greatly facilitated by having the funds on hand and engineers on staff that can design and monitor the projects.

Another Board-directed project is the seismic retrofit of our tall water tanks. The District's three tall tanks each hold over three million gallons of water. They are being modified to withstand a strong earthquake. The storage from these tanks will be important for fire suppression as well as water supply in an emergency. The Inglemoor tank has already been modified, along with the popes interconnecting it to the shorter tanks in the group. The Kingsgate tank, which serves the Evergreen Hospital, is under retrofit construction, and the Westhill tank is in the design phase.

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Free Natural Gardening Advice Hotline Available

Yard and garden-savvy staff at The Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline are available to assist you to garden in an environmentally friendly way. Call them at (206) 633-0224 for help with natural pest control, composting, water-efficient gardening, creating healthy soil and more. Request their Natural Lawn & Garden Guides, too.



9th Annual Sammamish Watershed Festival

The annual Sammamish Watershed Festival took place from May 21-23 in Blyth Park, Bothell. Northshore Utility District produced the event for the fifth year in a row. Over 900 fourth-grade students from Northshore and Lake Washington School



Students examine and learn about water specimens



Districts attended the festival where they learned about water

conservation, water quality, salmon, recycling and more.

Rebates Available

\$75 Washer Rebate

to residents purchasing energy and water saving clothes washers.

\$50 Washer Rebate

to multifamily building owners for leasing or installing qualifying efficient coin-operated washing machines.

\$40 Toilet Rebate

to multifamily property owners of four or more units for installation of 1.6 gallon toilets.

\$100 Rain Sensor Rebate

to commercial, institut or multifamily customr for installation of a rain sensor on a fully operational automatic irrigation system.



\$450 Irrig. System Rebate

to residents upgrading their automatic irrigation systems.

Call (425) 398-4419 or visit www.savingwater.org for details.

2004 District Water Rates

Did you know a “cross connection” is any point in a plumbing system where drinking water is conected to a containiment or pollutant? To avoid problems this summer, follow these helpful water quality tips to keep you and your fimily safe:

- ◆ Never leave the spray end of a hose submerged in a wash buvhet, backyard pond or pol.
- ◆ Follow instructions when using a hose end sprayer with pesticides or fertilizers.
- ◆ Install vacuum breakers on all hose bibs.
- ◆ Install a backflow prevention assembly on your irrigation or fire sprinkler system.
- ◆ Install a backflow prevention assembly on your boiler or swimming pool.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your water, please call our Water Quality Coordinator, Mick Holte at (425) 398-4417.

... District

retrofit construction, and the Westhill tank is in the design phase.

The District recently acquired water rights from the Weyerhaeuser Corporation, in partnership with other utilities, to increase our long-term water supply and reliability. Several Board members have personally monitored this project. I am pleased to report it survived all our challenges of the permit approval. With these new water rights, we will be one of the first utility allowed to withdraw water from the Snohomish River, in the Everett area, for use across the county line. This new water source can make a big difference to the whole region as the population grows over the next decade or two.

The District is under new management. Fanny Yee is our new General Manager; she has the required credentials and an excellent understanding of utility financing and operations developed over the 20 years she has been with the District. For various reasons, the District had turnover in several other key management positions, which have now been filled with highly qualified people. Customer service was good before but now it will be even better.

Northshore Utility District Board of Commissioners

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Board of
Commissioner
Meetings
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first and third
Mondays
6 p.m.
at the
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