# the Flow 500 A Publication of Northshore Utility District



2024 Issue No. 2



From left to right; Gail Hilderbrand, JoDean Sharp, Ethan Maiefski, Brenda Smith, Amanda Campbell, and Stephanie Rodriquez

### **Meet Northshore Utility District's Administrative Team**

Ensuring that an organization is running efficiently, effectively, and in a fiscally responsible manner is a significant responsibility. The Northshore Utility District's Administrative Team is responsible for providing both leadership and support for the District's 54 employees, the five-member Board of Commissioners, and 85,000 people within the cities of Bothell, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, and Woodinville.

This small but mighty team handles a wide range of responsibilities to keep Northshore Utility District (NUD) running smoothly. The Administration Team includes the following employees:

NUD is led by **Amanda Campbell** who joined the District in 2021 and was promoted to the General Manager role in 2023 and **Ethan Maiefski** who was promoted to Assistant General Manager in July 2023 after serving as the Maintenance & Operations Director. Combined, Ethan and Amanda have over 45 years of public service expertise. Through collaboration with the Board of Commissioners, they have improved morale, implemented additional benefit programs that support employee retention and recruitment, and have contributed to making the District a positive environment for all.

**Brenda Smith,** Executive Assistant, supports the leadership team and the Board of Commissioners through her eight years of dedicated service. She assists in daily administrative duties such as public records requests, meetings of the Board of Commissioners, and district events. Brenda also supervises the District's Administrative Aide, **Stephanie Rodriguez,** who joined the District in 2022 as a seasonal employee and has quickly became a valued resource.

**JoDean Sharp,** Senior HR Generalist and **Gail Hilderbrand**, HR Generalist, are the Human Resources hub for the District. Their duties are to ensure that employees have the support needed to operate at a high level as well as receive required training and education. This HR team works to keep the District in legal compliance with all state and federal employment regulations and best practices.

This team of administrative professionals takes great pride in their commitment to the employees of the District as well as delivering excellent service to our surrounding community.



Northshore Utility District Board of Commissioners

Suzanne Greathouse, Board President

Trudy Rolla, Board Secretary

Matt Breysse, Commissioner

Tom Mortimer, Commissioner

Bruce Gardiner, Commissioner

Board of Commissioner meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. (except holidays)

#### **District Office**

P.O. Box 82489 6830 NE 185th St. Kenmore, WA 98028

Ph: (425) 398-4400 Fax: (425) 398-4430 www.nud.net

Hours of Operation: Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

(Open 24 hours for emergencies)



Left to right front row: Rick Alne, JoDean Sharp, Xiuxia Liu, Mike Vermeulen; left to right middle row: Ethan Maiefski, Craig Schmollinger, Jared Littlefield, Trent Vanhulle; back row: Pat Sutherland

# **Congratulations to 2023 NUD All-Star Recipients**

At NUD, we are honored to serve our customers and proud of the work we do for the community. We strive to maintain a culture of excellence, and we recognize employees for going the extra mile. The employees listed above recently received All-Star Awards for deeds, conduct or work performance, above and beyond the expectations of the respective position, toward the betterment of the District.

Thank you for all that you do for NUD and for our customers!

### Rate Increase In 2024 Due to Rising Operational Costs

The decision to raise rates is an issue every responsible utility must face. Northshore Utility District (NUD) did not raise water rates between 2017 and 2022. This is possible largely due to NUD's unique water supply contract with Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). However, other rising operational costs have been impactful in maintaining safe and reliable water services.

Sewer services have seen similar increases as water services. King County Wastewater Treatment Division raised its costs by 5.8% annually over the past three years. This increase is being treated as a pass-through cost to District customers, along with NUD's rising operational costs. This decision was reached after conducting an open public hearing held on April 1, 2024.

The 2024 Rate Resolution was adopted and applied to all utility bills sent after April 2, 2024, regardless of when service is rendered.

For more information, please read the 2024 Rate Notification Letter posted on www.nud.net.

# Staying Ahead of Federal Lead and Copper Laws

Hearing the words "lead" and "copper" can be unsettling when it comes to water pipes that bring you tap water. But they are key words to federal regulations for water utilities – also referred to by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as public water systems – to reduce exposure to lead and copper from water pipes and plumbing. By October 2024, Northshore Utility District needs to meet new requirements of EPAs Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and has begun to implement compliance strategies.

Currently, the District is conducting an inventory of district-owned service pipes through inspections to identify if any have galvanized service line material. To date, 125 of the 190 service lines have been inspected.

"Customers may see our crews inspecting District-owned water services for galvanized service lines," notes Thomas Vane, Maintenance & Operations Director. "Once all inspections are complete, any identified galvanized service lines will be scheduled for replacement."

Privately owned water service pipes are the responsibility of the owner and won't be upgraded by Northshore Utility District. Water service pipes from a private home or business that extend from a structure to the water meter and those within the structure are considered privately owned.

If you have any questions regarding NUD's LCRR compliance, you can email or call our Water Quality Department at waterquality@nud.net or (425) 654-6321.