



# Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District

## An Update from Your Commissioners

As fall heads toward winter and the holiday season begins, we want to send our best wishes to you and your family.

We are honored to serve as **your** water district commissioners and are proud to provide you with safe drinking water that is among the best tasting in the region. Our drinking water resource is a defining factor in this community's high quality of life and we are committed to protecting it and providing our customers with the highest level of service.

This newsletter is an update on District projects and information. It also contains news you can use to protect your home during the colder months to come.

Our goal is to be open and accessible to our customers. You can call us at (425) 868-1144 or visit our website — **nesswd.org** — for information, water use tips and contact details for Commissioners and District staff.

Northeast Sammamish Sewer and Water District was established by a citizen vote in 1969 and we remain independent and solely accountable to you — **our customers**.

**We work to bring you the safest and highest quality drinking water.**



**Please Join Us!**

District Commissioners meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7:30 AM.

You may attend in person or by Zoom. Log-in information and updated meeting schedules are posted on the District's website at **nesswd.org**



**Want to pay your bill online?**



Sign-up to pay your water and sewer bill online @ **nesswd.org**



### Board of Commissioners

**Wayne DeMeester**  
President

**Paul Sentena**  
Secretary

**Paul Robinett**



Visit our website for news, information and answers to many questions @

**nesswd.org**



# Time to Winterize

## Protect Your Home From Costly Frozen Pipes

**JUST A FEW EASY STEPS** can help prevent frozen pipes and expensive repairs. NESSWD is responsible for water from the source to the meter, but you are responsible for protecting the pipes from the meter to and throughout your home. A small break in a pipe can spray hundreds of gallons of water — flooding your home & damaging floors, walls and furnishings.

**Winterize Your Sprinklers.**  
Have a professional winterize your home watering system by properly blowing it out.

**Disconnect Garden Hoses.**  
Remove hoses from exterior hose bibs and protect them with inexpensive covers.

**Insulate Exposed Pipes.**  
Use pipe wrap to insulate pipes in an unheated garage or crawl space. Allowing a faucet to drip warm water can provide some protection, but never leave

water running in a vacant home. Opening cabinet doors will allow heat to get to uninsulated pipes under the sink.

### Locate Your Emergency Water Shut-Off Valve.

Don't wait to know the location of your main water shut off and how to operate it.

### Protect Vacant Homes.

Our weather changes rapidly. If you leave your home for several days, please protect it by doing the following:

- ✿ Turn off the water at the main shut off.
- ✿ Open indoor & outdoor faucets to drain pipes.
- ✿ Flush your toilet(s) once to drain tank but not the bowl.
- ✿ Leave your home heat on at a minimum setting — **especially at night if you have a timed controller** —

to help keep interior wall pipes from freezing.

### If Your Pipes Freeze Act Fast and Stay Safe.

If you turn on your faucet and no water comes out, leave the faucet open and call a plumber. If you realize that a pipe has burst and water is flowing, turn off the water at your main shut off valve and leave faucets open. Show everyone the location of the water shut off and teach them how to safely close it.

**Never thaw a pipe with an open flame.** It may be possible to thaw a pipe with a hair dryer. Start by warming the pipe as close to the faucet as possible and move toward the coldest section. If the pipe is damaged, it may be smarter to allow ice to block it rather than risk flooding.

**Never risk electrocution** by using an electrical appliance around standing water.

# 2026 Sewer and Water Rates

Increases in water and sewer rates are primarily the result of inflation, cost-of-living increases and debt service payments for necessary infrastructure.

The District collects and pipes sewage to King County which provides treatment. The district is increasing its rate by \$2 or 3% while the county is increasing by \$8.76 or 7.5%.

## SEWER RATES

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
King County	\$116.56	\$125.32
NESSWD	\$66.74	\$68.74
	\$183.30	\$194.06

## WATER RATES

Water rates are increasing by 5%. The table shows bi-monthly rates for a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
Base Rate	\$53.58	\$56.26

Consumption cost per hundred cubic feet:

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
0 to 1300 cf	\$3.73	\$3.92
1301 - 1700 cf	\$5.94	\$6.23
1701 - 2600 cf	\$8.60	\$9.03
Over 2600 cf	\$11.27	\$11.83

Below is an example of a bi-monthly water bill for a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " meter under different usage scenarios.

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2026</b>
1700 cf (avg use)	\$125.83	\$132.14
2600 cf (avg summer use)	\$203.23	\$213.41

## STREET LIGHTS

Street light rates will increase 3% from \$7.43 to \$7.66 every two months.

## CITY OF SAMMAMISH UTILITY TAX

The City of Sammamish is implementing a 6% utility tax on water and sewer service which is in addition to district rates. This will begin January 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Comprehensive Water Testing to Keep Our Families Safe

The Washington State Department of Health has begun collecting drinking water test results for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they stay in the environment for a very long time. PFAS are a growing environmental contaminant of concern because some PFAS chemicals can be toxic to people and can build up in our bodies.

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances have been manufactured since the 1950s. PFAS chemicals have special properties that make them useful for grease-proof and water-proof coatings such as coated papers used in food packaging, Scotchgard® used on textiles or Gore-Tex® used in waterproof fabrics. PFAS were also used to make durable non-stick surfaces such as Teflon® pans and medical devices.

The District has received questions about PFAS in our drinking water. We conducted voluntary testing for PFAS in 2019 and 2021 and mandatory testing in 2025.

**Zero PFAS were detected in all sources.**



# Important Customer Information

## Protect our Sewer System and Your Home

The biggest ongoing maintenance issue faced by district staff is clogged pipes and pumps — **primarily from cleaning wipes that are wrongly labeled as safe to flush**. Testing by multiple laboratories shows that **NO** wipe sold may be safely flushed.

### DO NOT flush:

- Cleaning Wipes even if labeled as toilet safe or flushable
- Fats, Oil or Grease
- Paper Towels
- Facial Wipes
- Diapers
- Kitty Litter
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Band Aids / Cotton Swabs



Please use sink strainers to catch food scraps and empty them into the trash. Produce stickers should never be put through the garbage disposal.

By following these guidelines you will protect your pipes from clogs and reduce your risk of a sewer backup that can **contaminate your home** and cause thousands of dollars in damage.



### Request from Customer Service

#### Dialysis

If anyone in your family is a home dialysis patient, please contact NESSWD Customer Service and let us know to guarantee your water service.

## Unusually High Water Bill? You may have a leak.

If you have a higher-than-expected water bill there is a good chance you have a leak. The leak could be in your service line, home or irrigation system (if you have one). It may be something as simple as a toilet that is running undetected or an outside hose bib that was accidentally left on.

### 1. Check your water meter

- Shut off water to faucets and make sure all water using appliances are off.
- Locate your meter.
- Note the reading. Also, if you see a water drop icon this means water has been running continuously for 24 hours and you likely have a leak.
- Wait and re-read. Wait at least 30 minutes without using any water, then check again.
- Compare the readings. If the numbers on the meter have changed, you have a leak.

### 2. Pinpoint the leak

- Turn off the water at the shut off valve into your home. If the meter is still moving, the leak is in the service line between the meter and your home. Contact a plumber for repair.
- If the meter stops moving after you turn off water at main shut off then the leak is somewhere inside your home. Examine all appliances/fixtures and repair as necessary.

## New City of Sammamish Utility Tax

The City of Sammamish has notified the District that it will impose a 6% utility tax on sewer and water utilities beginning January 1, 2026. The cost of this new tax will be passed on to customers.

The District requested a lower tax rate from the city but that request was unsuccessful.

There is currently no limit on what the City could charge for this tax.

# District Projects Update

## SCADA Replacement

The Phase II contract for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) updates at the District wells is complete. The remote terminal units (RTUs) now communicate with the Master Control Center. The District is now in Phase II which will update SCADA at the .5MG and 3MG tanks, an intertie and one sewer lift station. We will also configure the SCADA to be able to operate in a closed zone which will facilitate taking the 3MG reservoir offline for cleaning, painting and coating. This project should begin this winter.

## SR202 Sewer Force-Main Relocation

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is replacing a culvert on SR202 which requires the District to relocate a sewer force-main. The District has installed a temporary bypass. WSDOT postponed their culvert work to the spring/summer of 2027. When WSDOT performs the culvert work, the bypass will be activated, the existing force main removed and a new force main installed.

## Emergency Chlorination System

The District does not chlorinate its water. If an E.coli event occurs similar to that in Mercer Island or Sallal, the District may need to inject chlorine to make our water drinkable. **This system would only be used in an emergency.** This project has been designed and the design approved by the Washington State Department of Health. The equipment has been installed at the .6 MG Crest Reservoir and the .5 MG reservoir and just needs to be tested once the SCADA projects are complete.

## Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI)

The District is moving from radio read meters to AMI. This will allow us to collect reads from the office. The two poles with antennas and repeaters have been installed. All of the meter registers have been replaced. However, we are not receiving full data and are using drive-by systems until the problems are corrected.

## Lift Station 8

This lift station is about 35 years old and must be rehabilitated. We will replace pumps and motors, add a stationary generator and replace the SCADA and motor controls. This project is in design. This project has been deferred to 2027 while funding sources are determined.

## AC Pipe Replacement

The District was awarded a \$5,000,000 Public Works Trust Fund Loan for this project. The interest rate is 1.72%. This project replaces approximately 8,700 lineal feet of AC pipe. This project is now in process and final paving should take place in Spring 2026.

## Shake Monitor

In Phase 1, Shake Monitor equipment to manage operations in the event of a major earthquake was installed at the District Office, the District Shop, the Booster Station, Crest Reservoir and Treatment Facility. In 2024, we installed monitors at Lift Stations 3 and 5. We just signed an amendment to the contract for Phase 2 which will include Wells 2R and 4 this year and Lift Stations 6 and 14 in 2026.

## Replace Office Generator

The existing generator is failing and needs replacement. The generator is vital to keeping the District office functioning and the telemetry system working. We have awarded a purchase contract and will receive the generator in December. District staff will install the generator with assistance from a licensed electrician.



The AC pipe replacement project under construction.



Newly rehabilitated pressure PUMP reducing station.



**Northeast Sammamish  
Sewer and Water District**  
3600 Sahalee Way Northeast  
Sammamish, Washington 98074

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# **Customer Update**

**Fall / Winter 2025**

## **Low Income Senior Discount**

A discount program is available for all customers who are at least 62 years of age with a limited family income. You qualify if you meet the criteria shown.

Family Size	Household Income That Does Not Exceed
1	\$ 55,000
2	\$ 62,850
3	\$ 70,700
4	\$ 78,550

To apply, visit our website at [nesswd.org](http://nesswd.org) or contact Customer Service at (425) 868-1144.



**Northeast Sammamish  
Sewer and Water District**

**Hours:**

Monday to Friday  
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

**Location:**

3600 Sahalee Way NE  
Sammamish, WA 98074

Water or Sewer Emergency? Contact us at

**(425) 868-1144**