



# The Pipeline

## Employee Newsletter

*Volume 47~ Number 8 August 2026*

**Shade: check.  
System working: check.**

NID Hydraulic Technician I Bobby Newkirk finds some shade while working through a scorching summer day.

The work doesn't stop when temperatures rise, but taking care of yourself in the heat is part of getting the job done safely.



## Featured Inside

HR Corner: work anniversaries, [Page 2](#)

CalPERS open enrollment begins Sept. 14, [Page 2](#)

In Memoriam: former GM Jim Chatigny, [Page 3](#)

Fast action at Mag III pump station keeps water flowing, [Page 4](#)

News: Raw Water customers transition to monthly billing, [Page 4](#)

Volunteer NID crew help bring the Fair to life, [Page 4](#)

*Flash from the Past:* "Chatigny Honored by Family, Friends" (September 2002), [Page 5](#)

Safety Corner: School's In; Safety's On, [Page 6](#)

*... and more*

### August Anniversaries

**Tony Moscini**, Senior Construction Inspector, 27 years  
**Cameron Price**, Maintenance Superintendent, 27 years  
**Tonia Tabucchi-Herrera**, Senior Engineer, 21 years  
**Christopher Ribble**, Maintenance Superintendent, 18 years  
**Richard Dills**, Senior Electrical Systems Technician, 12 years  
**Kenneth Hugg**, Water Treatment Operator II, 12 years  
**Eric Lauer**, Equipment Operator, 12 years  
**Desiree Ince**, Accountant II, 11 years  
**Randall Pool**, Utility Worker II, 10 years  
**Elizabeth Montejano**, Payroll Technician, 4 yrs  
**Maurice Ledoyen**, Hydrographer II, 2 years  
**Lucas Stevens**, Water Distribution Operator I, 2 years  
**Joseph Arnberg**, Utility Worker I, 1 year

### Promotions

**Shawn Droivold** promoted to Utility Worker II  
**Nick Green** promoted to Utility Worker II  
**Mike McCluskey** promoted to Equipment Mechanic II  
**Ryan Pfile** promoted to Equipment Mechanic II



Randall Pool



Nick Green



Mike McCluskey



Ryan Pfile



Shawn Droivold

### CalPERS Open Enrollment begins Sept. 14, 2026

CalPERS Open Enrollment for plan year 2027 begins Monday, September 14, 2026, and ends Friday, October 9, 2026. During this time, employees and retirees are eligible to make changes to their health plans with CalPERS. All changes made during Open Enrollment will take effect on January 1, 2027. Please stay tuned for more information on CalPERS Open Enrollment!



## In Memoriam: Jim Chatigny



The Nevada Irrigation District family remembers former General Manager James "Jim" Chatigny, who died July 19 at age 96.

Jim served NID for 23 years, joining the District in 1979 as an administrative aide. He was promoted to assistant manager in 1983 and selected as General Manager in 1986 following a nationwide search. He held that position for 16 years, retiring in 2002.

During his tenure, Jim helped advance changes that strengthened NID's operations and employee benefits. Early in his career, he helped lead the transition from Social Security retirement coverage to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS).

As General Manager, Jim placed a strong emphasis on communication and public involvement. He refined NID's committee system to create more opportunities for customers, Board members and employees to discuss District busi-

ness, helping strengthen communication between NID and the communities it serves.

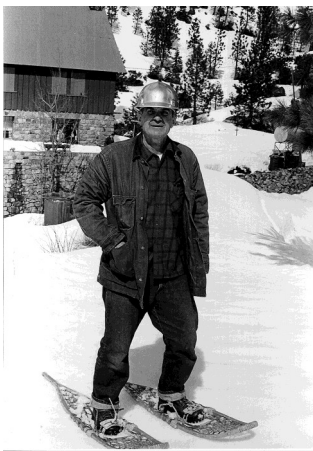
Before joining NID, Jim served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, including during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He also served as a deacon at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Grass Valley and held leadership positions with the Knights of Columbus.

Jim's 23 years with NID spanned a period of significant growth and modernization for the District. His leadership and commitment to communication and employee benefits remain an important part of NID's history.

NID extends its condolences to Jim's family, friends and former colleagues.



**Jim Chatigny gestures during his retirement celebration, featured in the September 2002 issue of *Pipeline*.**



Frank "Snowshoe Fritz" Plautz served as Bowman Reservoir's lake tender from 1960 to 1982, living there year-round with his wife, Ramona.

### Thanks from a reader:

I am the Granddaughter of Frank Plautz. Thank you for such a wonderful article about my grandpa. He and my grandma, Ramona, were special people. I have so many fond memories of them and at Bowman.

Having lived in Long Beach, California I remember Bowman House fondly as a child. Memories that will stay with me forever that unfortunately my children will never experience.

I also remember Chuck at Fuller Lake. Northern California has some very beautiful lakes. A few years ago my cousins and I drove our moms, who were in the 80s, to Jackson Meadows.

Thank you again for highlighting my grandparents. My grandpa was taken from us way too early but still lives thanks to your wonderful article!!

[Part of NID's 105 Years Forward celebration. Read the story [here](#)]



## Quick response keeps the water flowing for LOP

A smoking pump could have meant trouble for the start of NID's Lake of the Pines water delivery. Instead, it became a quick exercise in teamwork and a little weekend overtime.

On June 24, Gene Presley, Senior Water Distribution Operator, noticed one of the pumps at the Magnolia III "Mag III" Pump Station had started smoking as the station was being put into service for the Lake of the Pines water delivery.

The pump was removed the following day and sent out for repair. The motor was rewound over the weekend and, by Monday, the repaired pump was back on site and ready to go.

Electrical Systems Tech II Jim Belleque, Senior Welder Robert Stice, Senior Utility Worker Logan Sheftal and Senior Utility Worker Wayne MacMenigall worked together to reinstall the motor and get the pump back in service.

Spotting a problem early, responding quickly and working together helped keep the water moving when it mattered.



## NID crew helps bring the Nevada County Fair to life

Before the gates opened and crowds arrived at the Fair, a volunteer NID crew was working behind the scenes to prepare the Nevada County Fairgrounds for the big event.

As they have for many years, NID employees volunteered their time to help with setup, pitching in to get the Fair ready for thousands of visitors. Their work may happen before the crowds arrive, but it helps make the community's annual celebration possible—and is deeply appreciated.

The 2026 Nevada County Fair, themed "Blue Ribbons and Fair Traditions," ran August 12–16.

The crew: Maintenance Supervisor Tim Rowe; Cross Connection Control Tech II Robbie Graham; Utility Worker II Zachary Clark-Ware; and Utility Workers Daniel Roth, Austin Slining, JJ Cobian-Mitchell, Cameron Echter-nacht, Davin Chittok and Joseph Arnberg.

Thanks for your efforts!

## Raw Water Customers Transition to Monthly Billing



NID will begin monthly billing for winter irrigation service starting in September 2026.

Winter water service runs from approximately October 15 through April 14 each year. Service is subject to water availability and is secondary to regular seasonal demand.

Beginning in 2027, all raw water services will switch to monthly billing so customers receive bills that align with when water is delivered.

Summer-only services will receive six bills during the irrigation season; customers with fall water will receive one additional bill and customers receiving winter water will receive 12 bills per year.

For reference, summer irrigation season is typically April 15 - October 14, and fall irrigation season runs from about October 15 - December 01.

Read more about customer billing information, [click here](#).

## Chatigny Honored by Family, Friends

**A**n enthusiastic crowd of more than 200, including 52 members of the Chatigny family, turned out at the Nevada City Elks Lodge Aug. 16 for the **Jim Chatigny Retirement Dinner**.

The event, organized by district staff, attracted representatives from all levels of government, the water industry and local community. Many directors, employees and friends were in attendance.

A good part of the evening was devoted to Chatigny family introductions as the retiring manager introduced more than one person as "he/she isn't part of the family yet, but someday he/she may be."

Highlights of the evening included a *"This is Your NID Life"* Power Point slide show by **Les Nicholson** and **Terry Mayfield** and presentations (and retirements) of the one-time perpetual *NID Greenhorn Award* and *NID Horseshoes Trophy*.

Among the many gifts were resolutions from state and federal legislators, a "droplet" of Placer County water from the Placer County Water Agency, a *"Free at Last"* painting from Director **George Leipzig** and a district manager wall hanging and album, scrapbook, golf cart and golf bag from district employees.

The retiring manager showed great emotion as his children presented him with an American flag that flew over the U.S. Air Force Academy on July 17, his birthday.

Chatigny retires Sept. 4 and will work part-time during the transition of management to **Ron Nelson**, who starts Sept. 30.



**Mark Chatigny gives his dad a flag that flew over the U.S. Air Force Academy.**



**The guest of honor with his bride, Helen. Opening his framed print of NID managers**



**The last of the Greenhorns**



**NID retiree Dee Mautino addresses the audience**



### School's in Safety's on

*Watch for kids and  
drive with caution*



As the new school year begins, kids are heading back to class. This means more children walking, biking, and riding buses, especially during morning and afternoon commute hours.

Please stay alert, slow down in school zones, and watch carefully for kids crossing streets. A little extra caution goes a long way in keeping everyone safe.

Here are some good tips from the American Automobile Association (AAA):

- **Slow down.** Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.
- **Come to a complete stop.** Research shows that more than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.
- **Eliminate distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. And children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone or eating while driving, for example.
- **Reverse responsibly.** Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles.
- **Watch for bicycles.** Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. If your child rides a bicycle to school, require that he or she wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride.
- **Talk to your teen.** Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the U.S. and nearly one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

# Meetings & Events

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026  
NID Main Office  
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2026  
NID Main Office  
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026  
NID Main Office  
1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley

\*\* Dates subject to change. For updated dates, see [nidwater.com](https://nidwater.com)

## **Past Pipeline Editions**

[July 2026](#)

[June 2026](#)

[May 2026](#)

[April 2026](#)

[March 2026](#)

[February 2026](#)

[January 2026](#)



*Follow NID on social media*

