

Oak Lodge Service Districts



BRINGING SANITARY SEWER • SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT • WATER SERVICES TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Jennings Lodge • Oatfield Ridge • Oak Grove

Sanitary Update From the Manager

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

As we have reported in earlier articles, the Oak Lodge Sanitary District is moving forward with a capital improvement program to expand and upgrade its wastewater treatment plant. This program is necessary because several components of the treatment plant are outdated and no longer reliable. The plant was originally constructed in 1964 and because of its age and technology; it cannot meet current standards and expectations for redundancy, reliability, or treatment capacity. Over the years, the District has made numerous investments in the treatment plant. The improvements which have been made in the past twenty years will continue to provide service to the community into the distant future. This treatment upgrade project will build upon the investments of the past and assure that the plant will protect public health and the water environment for upcoming generations of Citizens of the Oak Grove and Jennings Lodge communities.

For the past several months, the District has been working on the first phase of its Master Plan implementation, the Predesign Project. The Predesign Project will develop the specific approaches for expanding and upgrading the wastewater treatment plant. When the Predesign Project is completed at the end of January 2009, the District will possess engineering plans and designs that are approximately 30% complete. Most importantly, these plans will present a clear understanding of the facilities, schedule, and costs necessary to implement the wastewater treatment component of the Master Plan. The District continues to target a construction project which will begin in late 2009 or early 2010 and conclude in 2012. Our goal is to contain the total cost of the project at \$50 million or less in 2008 dollars. We have already reduced the cost of this project from the 2007 estimate of \$80 million (2006 dollars) to slightly less than \$50 million. A project of this cost magnitude will require financing to provide the necessary funding. We expect to make financing decisions in mid-2009 and will seek financing shortly thereafter. Based on our preliminary analysis, a \$50 million project will cause sewer rates to rise slowly over the next several years. The District's average monthly sewer rate is currently \$29 per month. We have examined the growth and capital improvement plans of other regional sewer service providers and expect that the OLSD rates will be continue to be comparable to other nearby agencies. If you would like to learn more about the treatment plant expansion and upgrade project, please call Michael Read, General Manager at (503)653-1653 to schedule a presentation.



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Good Neighbor Plan

Part of the planning effort for the upgraded treatment facility includes devising a “Good Neighbor Plan” which will assure that the treatment plant will interface in a positive way with its immediate neighbors. We will accomplish this by screening the facility with

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plantings; by incorporating architectural features which blend into the community and environment; by assuring that odors and noise are mitigated within the plant; by minimizing plant traffic effects on the local community; and by addressing construction impacts on the neighborhood. The District has a Master Plan Community Advisory Committee providing guidance to the District's Board of Directors and to our consultants on the project and the "Good Neighbor Plan".

Sustainability

Another important component of the District's Treatment Plant Upgrade project is our efforts to reuse as much of the existing plant's facilities as possible. In addition to continuing to use facilities that were built over the past 20 years, we will be able to reuse as much as 75% of the older concrete tanks for new treatment process purposes. With the cost of concrete skyrocketing well beyond the rate of inflation, reusing the concrete for alternative purposes will reduce project costs significantly. We are also committed to using energy efficient equipment and reducing the facility's overall carbon footprint.

New OLSD Website

Check out the new Oak Lodge Sanitary District website at www.oaklodesanitary.com. The website has been improved to provide easier access to District information and links to other agencies. While you're visiting the website, take the photo tour of the wastewater treatment plant and read our Special Edition Water News which provides additional information about the District and our treatment plant upgrade project.

Budget Committee Members Needed!!

The Oak Lodge Sanitary District has two vacancies on its Budget Committee. The Budget Committee will meet three or four times early next year to review, comment, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors on the District's budget. The Budget Committee's role is very important and helps the Board and staff to make wise operational and capital funding decisions in the wastewater and stormwater programs. If you are interested in volunteering to serve on the District's budget committee, go to the website at www.oaklodesanitary.com and click on **Get Involved** text at the top of the page.



Pharmaceuticals and Our Water

For years we have been told to flush our old medications down the toilet. The intent was good. The results have not been. A rising issue in wastewater treatment is the level of pharmaceuticals that are being found in the water. Our bodies do not absorb all of the medication that we ingest. The excess is left in our waste. The other main contributor to this issue is the flushing of old medications down the toilet. So what are we supposed to do? The safest way to dispose of old medications is to go through your medicine cabinet at least once a year and take all the expired or unusable medication back to the pharmacy. Most pharmacies have a drug disposal or recycling program. If you find yourself changing medications regularly, consider purchasing smaller quantities at a time. This will also help you cut down on the amount of wasted medication. So please help us protect our precious resources. Do not flush pharmaceuticals down the drain.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Oak Lodge Sanitary District meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the District's Office, 14611 SE River Road. The public is encouraged to attend.

Board Directors:

- Jim Martin
- Paul Savas, President
- David Seigneur
- Doug Woods
- William Wild, Vice President



Our World of Water: Things You might Not Already Know

There is a small amount of fresh water on this earth and it is our job to keep it clean!

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- Planet earth is a water planet with over 100 sextillion acre-feet (10 to the 21st power) of water.
 - That's 1.4 billion cubic kilometers of water. However, freshwater accounts for only 2.5 % of that total amount.
 - More that two-thirds of the total freshwater is tied up in ice and permanent snowcap and another 30 % is stored underground in aquifers, or in swamps or permafrost.
 - Freshwater lakes and streams contain only three-tenths of a percent of the total planetary freshwater supply, which is less than three one-hundredths of one percent of the earth's total volume of water.
 - 1.1 billion people have no access to potable water and nearly 2.5 billion people have no access to any type of sanitation.
 - Global water quality is significantly affected by pollution with 90% of domestic and industrial wastewater in the developing world being disposed without treatment.
 - This pollutes freshwater resources that are depended on for potable water and ultimately pollutes the oceans on which many societies rely for food.
 - At any moment, 50 % of the hospital beds in the world are occupied by people sickened by waterborne disease.
 - The health of our world's people is dependent not only on access to safe and sustainable water supplies. It is also dependent on effectively managing and treating wastewater so that the water environment and public health are protected.

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

The Oregon Legislature will soon convene for the 2009 Session. I play a very involved role in watching any proposed legislation which may have either a very positive impact or a very negative impact on water supply or water quality issues.

I represent the Tri-County Water Association on the Special Districts Association of Oregon legislative Committee. The SDAO Legislative Committee is comprised of staff from all the areas that are Special Districts. For example there are representatives from Park, Library, Fire, Wastewater, Ports and 911 Emergency Centers just a name a few.

In my role I only deal with water issues and there are expected to many Legislative Concepts that arise in the 2009 Session.

The Governor’s Office has been working with a stakeholder group to develop the “Headwaters to Ocean” initiative. Commonly known (to those of us in the industry) as the H2O an advisory group has been working on the concepts that effect water throughout the state. The initiative deals with four main categories: water supply and conservation, pollution prevention and reduction, measurement of water use, and ecosystem services. The price associated with all of the components of H2O is estimated at \$10 million per biennium for several years. It is expected that the funding, if approved, would come from lottery funds by way of a ballot initiative.

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) was budgeted in the current biennium to develop the Oregon Water Supply and Conservation Initiative (ORWSC). This initiative is looking at water supply forecasts, current and future water conservation efforts, and is intended to determine the water needs for the next 50 years across the state. Oak Lodge Water District staff has participated actively in this project.

Right now I do not know of any bills that may have an impact on the District. I expect that the addition of fluoride to the water will once again be an issue. Our stance remains that the addition of fluoride to the water should be a local decision and not a state mandate.

If you have any concerns about water issues you may hear of from the legislative session, please call me and I will tell you what I know, and what the SDAO position is on the bill.

Dan Bradley
General Manager

Community Planning Organization Meeting Schedule

The Oak Lodge Community Council meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Oak Lodge Sanitary District at 7:00PM.

The Jennings Lodge CPO meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at Homewood Heights at 7:00PM.

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Oak Lodge Water District meet on the Tuesday immediately following the third Monday of each month. Regular meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. in the District’s Office, 14496 SE River Road. The public is encouraged to attend.

Board Directors:
George Payne, President
Myron Martwick, Secretary
Dick Jones, Secretary
Jim Knapp, Commissioner
Leonard Waldemar, Commissioner



Is Oak Lodge Water District in Financial Crisis?

Not Oak Lodge Water!

Through good planning Oak Lodge Water will meet future needs for the next 20-50 years.

Some cities have major infrastructure problems due to lack of good maintenance and financial planning. Through land and water sales, with conservative financial planning, Oak Lodge Water District is maintaining solid financial responsibility for ongoing and future maintenance.

The “Good News” is that through control and good foresight by our district water board, our district will pay off the bond for the slow sand filter plant in 2014.

We at Oak Lodge Water want to thank you, our customers, for supporting the bond measure to build the plant and for supporting our local special districts.

Oak Lodge is in good hands! Future needs, inflation, and unexpected circumstances are covered.

Jim Knapp
Commissioner

Is Bottled Water Safer Than Tap Water?

Bottled water is generally safe; however, it is not safer than Oak Lodge tap water. If you read the labels carefully, you will find that many brands of bottled water come from a municipal drinking water supply.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates contaminant levels for bottled water that is sold in a different state than where it was bottled. Standards for tap water, which is monitored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), are actually more stringent. For example, the FDA allows for the presence of tiny amounts of coliform bacteria in 1 out of 10 bottles tested, but the EPA has zero tolerance for coliform in tap water. Additionally, the FDA does not regulate contaminant levels for bottled water that is sold in the same state where it is bottled. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recently completed a four-year study in which they tested more than 1000 bottles of 103 brands of bottled water. About one third of the brands had at least one sample that failed water quality standards. Recent research shows that some bottles can leach phthalates, a constituent of the plastic, into the water contained within.

Because bottled water is not required to have a disinfectant residual, it is perishable and should not be stored more than a few months. Bottled water is significantly more expensive than tap water, but it generally does not provide additional benefits. Consider that for the price of a single serving of bottled water, you could purchase almost a thousand gallons of tap water. Creating bottles also uses resources such as petroleum and energy. Even the disposal of bottles presents a concern that should be considered when you choose whether or not to purchase and drink bottled water.



Debit & Credit Card Payments

It has now been a year since we have been accepting credit/debit card payments.

We had many customers here at Oak Lodge Water District asking for this service and we are excited to say several people have taken advantage of this service.

For your convenience, we will take payment over the phone as well as in the office. You may also use it to pay for a new water service. We are excited about this feature and hope you are as well.

If using a debit/credit is not for you, we also offer an easy Direct Payment Plan for Oak Lodge Water District (OLWD) customers. We are able to have your water payments made automatically from your checking or savings account. No changes needed to your present banking relationship to take advantage of this service. Which ever you may choose, this service is free to all of our Oak Lodge Water District Customers.

If you would like more details on these methods of payments, please feel free to call our office (503) 654-7765 or visit us on our website www.oaklodgewater.org to print your copy of our direct payment form or use the one below.

<p>I authorize Oak Lodge Water District and the financial institution named below to initiate entries to my account. This authority will remain in effect until I notify you in writing to cancel it in such time as to afford the financial institution a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I can stop payment of any entry by notifying my financial institution and Oak Lodge Water District 3 days before my account is charged.</p> <p> <input type="checkbox"/> Checking account <input type="checkbox"/> Savings account </p> <p>This authority will remain in effect until I have canceled it in writing.</p>	
Signature	Date
Name (Please Print)	Financial Institution
Address	Account Number at Financial Institution
City OR Zip	Oak Lodge Water Account Number
PLEASE STAPLE VOIDED CHECK TO THIS FORM	

Fall is Time to Winterize Your Irrigation System!

Fall is the time of year to start thinking about winterizing your irrigation system to protect your valuable investment before the first frosts. Extended periods of freezing temperatures can cause considerable damage to underground irrigation systems. Expansion of frozen water will crack water lines and damage internal gearing in sprinkler head. To avoid costly servicing in the spring, we suggest getting your system winterized during the latter half of October. Halloween is a good date to remember to do this by.



Initiating an annual winterization program is a positive step toward preventative maintenance care, and will save you from problems next season, as well as ensure that your system is operating as efficiently as possible. We strongly suggest hiring a local landscape/irrigation specialist to perform the following winterization procedure.

Winterizing your irrigation system includes the following steps:

- Turn off the water to the irrigation system at the main shut-off valve.
- Open all drain valves. Drain valves are usually located at low points. If they are not opened water can collect and freeze.
- Remove water from system. Opening the drain valves is not usually enough. Drain valves generally will only allow a small amount of water to escape. Thus, sprinkler heads, valves, and pipes will remain full of water. To fully ensure that your system will not suffer freeze damage, the best method is to blow out the system with air. *It is not recommended that the average homeowner attempt to do this, it is recommended that a professional is hired.* Most landscape professionals use a high volume air compressor to blow all the water out of your entire system. Check you local yellow pages for listing of landscape professionals that offer winterization services.
- Wrap above ground valves and backflow prevention devices with insulating material to prevent freezing.
- Shut down the automatic controller by either putting it on “rain mode” which will keep all of the programming information (start times, valve run times, etc.) or simple shut the power off to the controller. If you do this it means that you will have to reprogram your start time and settings in the spring.

For more irrigation information and tips on how to use outdoor water wisely, visit the Clackamas River Water Provider’s web-site at www.clackamasproviders.org or contact Christine Hollenbeck at (503) 723-3511 or e-mail her at christine@clackamasproviders.org

Dispose of Pool Water Properly

As summer comes to an end, many people start preparing their yards for winter. For many, this includes emptying pools and hot tubs. Please remember that discharging chlorinated pool and hot tub water into storm drains is lethal to fish and other wildlife because storm drains lead to rivers and streams. Here are some steps to follow to ensure that your pool and hot tub water does not harm our environment:

1. Discharge chlorinated water into the sanitary sewer with your backflushing pool filter.
2. If discharge to sanitary sewer is not possible, hold the chlorinated water in your pool or hot tub for two weeks to allow the chlorine to dissipate. Then dispose of the water onto the ground. Please be sure it does not flow on to other properties.
3. For more information on proper disposal of chlorinated water, feel free to check out the guidelines set forth by the Department of Environmental Quality.



This newsletter is the result of a joint effort by the Oak Lodge Sanitary and Water Districts. The Boards of Directors of these service districts feel it is important to keep you, the public, informed about your service districts and the work each perform.

Sanitary Sewer * Surface Water Management

**14611 SE River Road
Milwaukie, OR 97267
(503) 653-1653**

www.oaklodesanitary.com

Water

**14496 SE River Road
Milwaukie, OR 97267
(503) 654-7765**

www.oaklodgewater.org

**Oak Lodge Sanitary District
14611 SE River Road
Milwaukie, OR 97267-1198**

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