

Oak Lodge Service Districts



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

Jennings Lodge • Oatfield Ridge • Oak Grove

MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

We are in a new fiscal year and I want to inform you of the projects and other items that are in this year’s budget. But first I want to tell you about the folks who volunteered to help in the budget approval process.

Since the Oak Lodge Water District Board is comprised of five members, we are required to have an equal number of ratepayers on the Budget Committee. The current citizen Budget Committee members are Carolyn Dickman, Tony Lester, Chuck Petersen, Dave Phelps, Doug Woods, and Leonard Waldemar who serves as an alternate.

In December this group gets together in a work session with the Board to hear what types of projects are being considered in the upcoming year and to hear a financial forecast for the District. The actual Budget Committee meeting is held on the third Thursday in April.

In the FY 08/09 budget, the equipment storage building in the northeast corner of our yard will be remodeled and expanded so all the equipment can be garaged. A remodel of the office building is also proposed. The existing office footprint will stay the same but additional storage and a larger Board/Conference room will be added.

A major recommendation in the recently adopted master plan was to replace the Valley View pump station. This pump station was constructed over forty years ago and has exceeded its lifespan. The new pump station is estimated to cost \$650,000 and the work will be done during the winter months when demand is lower.



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It was also approved to buy a new backhoe. The backhoe will replace a 1968 backhoe that has certainly outlived its useful life. We are also buying a leak detection correlator. This device will be used to perform an active leak detection program on the distribution system to support our ongoing conservation efforts.

It may sound like we are spending a lot of money and in fact we are. However, there is no need for a rate increase this year. Oak Lodge Water District has built a fairly substantial reserve fund which allows all the projects and equipment to be paid with money already in reserve. By 2014 the District will have retired the bonds that were issued and be completely debt free.

The Board and staff of Oak Lodge Water District hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer and remember to use your water wisely.

Dan Bradley
General Manager

IRRIGATION SYSTEM SUMMER CHECK LIST

Now is the time to start checking your irrigation system for peak summer performance – it's one of the most important things you can do to keep your system operating efficiently.

Because automatic irrigation systems often come on in the early morning hours – unobserved by their owners – leaks and other problems can go unnoticed for long periods of time – wasting water and damaging plants. By taking the time to check, repair, and adjust the irrigation system at the beginning of the watering season, and making periodic checks throughout the summer, you can be sure your lawn and garden are being watered properly without wasting water.



Checklist:

1. Close all manual drains – the sprinkler system was probably drained last fall – and make sure that none of the manual drain valves have been left open.
2. Slowly open the main valve and allow the mainline piping from the main valve to the backflow prevention to fill with water.
3. Have the backflow prevention assembly tested by a state certified tester – many local water providers can supply a list of testers. Contact your local water provider for requirements.
4. Pressurize the mainline from the backflow prevention assembly to the control valves – have one of the control valves open while you do this so that air trapped in the piping can escape through the irrigation heads as the pipes fill with water.
5. Run the entire system, one zone at a time. As you do this, check for the following:
 - a. Signs of leakage, caused by damage to the heads or piping during the winter months-repair as needed.
 - b. Spray pattern of the sprinklers can be inefficient. Sometimes nozzles get clogged and need to be cleaned. Also, nozzles and sprinkler may need adjustments to reduce overspray onto walks, driveways, etc. Interference of the spray pattern can occur if plants have been moved, play equipment has been installed, or if plants have just grown too tall. Adjusting the sprinklers to accommodate the changing landscape will eliminate dry spots and puddling caused by blocked spray.
 - c. Overgrown grass can impede spray heads – make sure to keep yours trimmed. Also, check for leaning spray heads.

By following these simple guidelines, you can have a healthy lawn and garden all summer – while conserving water!

For more information about summer water conservation tips, contact Clackamas River Water Providers at (503) 723-3511 or e-mail Christine Hollenbeck at christine@clackamasproviders.org.



THOUGHTS FROM THE BOARD

Recently I attended the American Water Works Association Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) in Atlanta, Georgia. There were over 11,000 attendees representing almost seventy different countries.

The ACE has special sessions for elected officials including a special Sunday workshop that I attended. The interactions I received from other elected officials around the United States are invaluable. One of the things I enjoy most is to learn how other utilities do things and how the Oak Lodge Water District compares to them.

I returned feeling very reassured that the Oak Lodge Water District is in excellent condition compared to most other utilities. I found our water rates to be a fraction of what other utilities charge.

With Oak Lodge Water District's proactive capital improvement program, the condition of our infrastructure is far better than others. We are spending \$600,000 in the coming year to replace the Valley View pump station. While this is a small amount compared to some of the utilities I talked to, proportionately to our size it is a large capital expense.

Many systems have pipes that have been in use for over 100 years. These pipes will need to be replaced and the costs will be phenomenal. The Oak Lodge Water District Board adopted an updated Master Plan at the June 17th meeting. The master plan found no major problems except the Valley View pump station in our system.

My recent experience at the ACE makes me feel proud of the Oak Lodge system. The District is financially sound, the infrastructure is in reasonably sound condition, and our rates remain as some of the lowest in the region.

The Oak Lodge Water District Board will remain diligent in protecting your assets. I feel confident from what I learned at the conference and feel confident we are doing exactly that.

Board of Directors

George Payne

APPLYING THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF WATER TO YOUR LAWN

Much of the water that is used for lawn watering is wasted due to evaporation and poor watering techniques. Typically established lawns need about 1 inch of water per week, a bit less in cool moist weather, and a bit more in hot dry weather. Here is a simple way to figure out how long to water your lawn:

- 1) Set out 5 empty tuna cans (or something similar) at various places on your lawn within your sprinkler's range. Place the cans halfway between the sprinklers and in the areas that generally receive the least amount of sprinkler water.
- 2) Turn on your sprinklers for exactly 15 minutes.
- 3) Measure the depth of the water in each can. Add the numbers and divide by 5 to get the *average water depth* (in inches) of all of the cans.
- 4) If the average water depth in the cans (in inches) after 15 minutes is $\frac{1}{4}$ then you will need to water for 60 minutes; if it is $\frac{1}{2}$ for 30 minutes; $\frac{3}{4}$ for 20 minutes; and if you get 1 inch of water you will only need to water for 15 minutes.

For more information on watering techniques contact Christine Hollenbeck at Clackamas River Water Provider's Conservation Program (503) 723-3511 or e-mail Christine@clackamasproviders.org.

SANITARY SEWER RATE INCREASE

On May 13, the Board of Directors of Oak Lodge Sanitary District approved a new rate for sanitary sewer service. Effective July 1, 2008, the fixed portion of your sanitary sewer bill will increase from \$14.55 to \$16.74 per month for a single family residence. The variable portion of the bill will increase from \$1.54 to \$1.77 per 100 cubic feet of winter water consumption. Accordingly, the average monthly charge for sanitary sewer service, for a single family residence will increase from \$25.33 to \$29.13. Because the District bills in arrears, the first bill customers receive with the new rate will be August 1 or September 1, 2008, depending on the area of the District in which you reside.

Surface water management charges will remain unchanged at \$6.00 per month.

Why have sanitary sewer rates increased?

The District's collection and treatment facilities have been in service for over 45 years, and operate 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The recently-adopted Sanitary Sewer System Master Plan identifies tens of millions of dollars of needed improvements and additions, to ensure reliable sewer service and environmental protection. This rate increase will provide a small portion of the money needed.

If you have questions about the new rates, please contact the administration office at 503-653-1653.

OLSD Monthly Sanitary Sewer Service Rate

Fixed Portion

OLD	NEW
\$14.55	\$16.74

Variable Portion

OLD	NEW
\$1.54	\$1.77

RECIPES FOR CLEAN RIVERS AND STREAMS!

It is easy to make environmentally-friendly cleaning products for household use. These chemicals are less hazardous to our water systems than conventional cleaning products.

All-Purpose Cleaner

- 1/2 teaspoon liquid soap
- 1/2 teaspoon borax
- 1/8 cup vinegar
- 2 cups warm water

Window Cleaner

- 1/8 cup vinegar, OR
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 2 cups warm water

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:

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

THE CLACKAMAS COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERS DIALOGUE

In January 2008, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners convened a Community Partners Task Force that was “...charged with defining and developing the principles for a collective agreement between north county service providers...”

The Task Force was comprised of officials from the cities of Damascus, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, and West Linn; the Oak Lodge Sanitary District (OLSD); and Clackamas County Service District No. 1 (CCSD #1). In addition, there were 5 citizens-at-large selected by the BCC as well as a representative from the Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland. A Working Group consisting of the city managers and the Oak Lodge Sanitary District manager also met to discuss items which were to be brought to the Task Force.

The Community Partners process began with the premise that potentially as much as \$300 million (M) could be saved by consolidating wastewater treatment in one entity at one site when compared with the cost of each entity “going-it-alone.”

The process ultimately determined that a consolidated or regional wastewater treatment approach would be based on each entity paying a common wholesale treatment rate of \$24.00 per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU). Each entity would be responsible for the conveyance costs (capital and operations) to get their sewage to the regional facility; as well as their own local retail collection operations and maintenance costs.

In 2015, the regional approach would have resulted in a total monthly sewer service charge for Oak Lodge customers of approximately \$50.00 (\$24.00 for wholesale treatment; \$22.00 for conveyance; and, \$4.00 for local retail services). This monthly rate does not include future costs for decommissioning and replacing the capacity of the Kellogg Creek plant which were estimated to add an additional \$5.00 per month.

While the Community Partners process was underway, Oak Lodge staff and engineering consultants reduced the Master Plan project costs for the planning horizon to a maximum of \$50 million. In projecting monthly retail sewer service rates based on that amount, OLSD estimates its rates for 2015 to be approximately \$42.00 in a go-it-alone scenario. It is expected that those project costs will continue to decline as the District moves through the Predesign Project.

With the data clearly showing that the Oak Lodge Sanitary District customers’ sewer rates would be nearly twenty percent lower with a go-it-alone approach than with the regional approach, the Oak Lodge Sanitary District Board of Directors determined to proceed with upgrades to the District’s wastewater treatment plant to allow continuing service to Oak Lodge customers for at least the next 30 years.

The Oak Lodge Sanitary District believes in regional collaboration and is committed to continuing cooperation with Clackamas County and other regional entities where there are opportunities for all parties to benefit from working together.

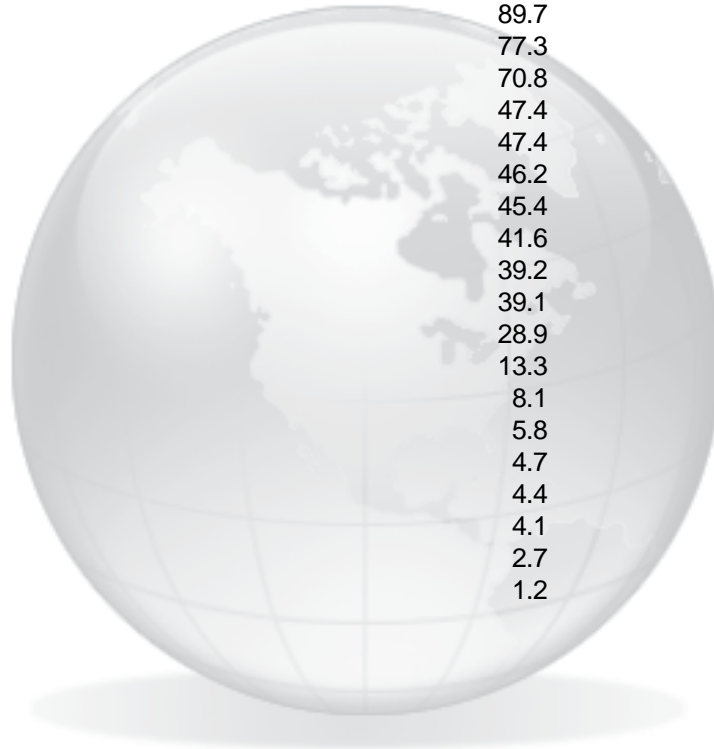


OUR WORLD OF WATER

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT ALREADY KNOW

Per Capita Water Consumption (data from World Resources Institute - WRI)

Country	Average Daily Consumption (gal/day)
Canada	209.4
United States	176.5
Venezuela	119.3
Philippines	89.7
France	77.3
Chile	70.8
Iraq	47.4
Israel	47.4
Germany	46.2
Argentina	45.4
Egypt	41.6
Mexico	39.2
Vietnam	39.1
Switzerland	28.9
India	13.3
Jamaica	8.1
Angola	5.8
Uganda	4.7
Zaire	4.4
Albania	4.1
Mozambique	2.7
Haiti	1.2



We are truly blessed in North America with abundant, safe water. We must learn to conserve so that this precious resource is sustainable for future generations.

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

Regular meetings of the Oak Lodge Water District's Board of Directors are held on the Third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the District Office, 14496 SE River Road. The public is encouraged to attend.

Board of Directors:

Dick Jones, President
Myron Martwick, Treasurer
Jim Knapp, Secretary
Dave Jelinek, Commissioner
George Payne, Commissioner

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

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