



NEWSLETTER

JOINT BILLING FOR WATER & SEWER!

— March and April bring joint bills for OLWS customers

Oak Lodge Water Services starts joint billing in the next two months for all customers. Here are a few quick reminders about the changes to joint billing: 1. Your water and sewer/watershed protection bills will be combined into one bill, but rates are *not* increasing. 2. Contact us to sign up for e-billing/ autopay when you get your first joint bill. 3. Owners are responsible for account balances, but the District will mail a copy of the bill to tenants. 4. When a bill is overdue and the balance goes over \$175, the District will begin the water shut off process to the property. **Please contact us with questions about your new combined bill: 503-654-7765 or billing@olwsd.org.**

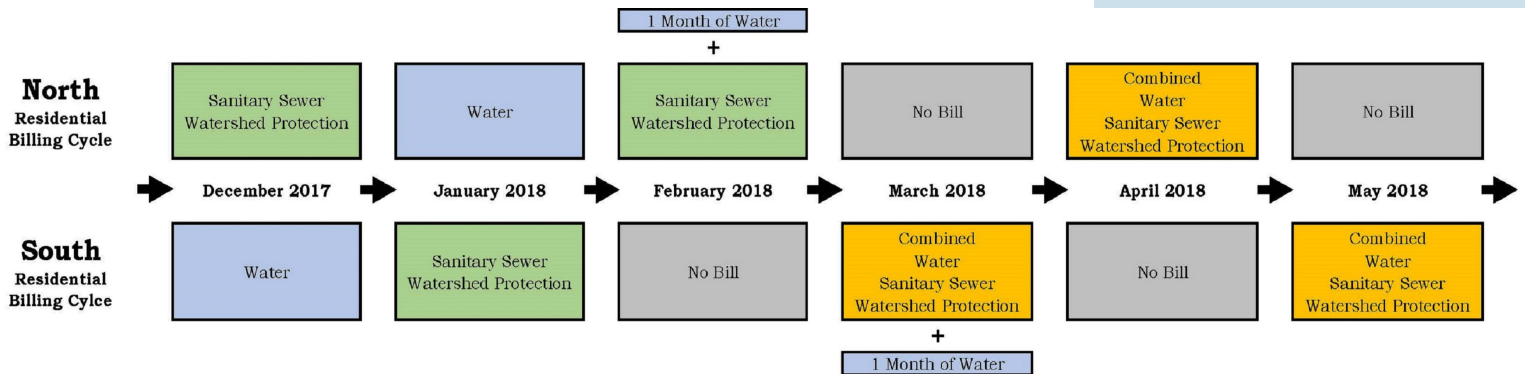
OLWS BOARD MEETINGS:

All Board Meetings held at:
Oak Lodge Water Services
Administration Building
14496 SE River Rd.,
Oak Grove, OR 97267

*** MARCH 20 at 6 p.m.**

*** APRIL 17 at 6 p.m.**

The public is welcome!



BOARD BYLINE: CALL OAK LODGE WHEN YOU SEE A SPILL! — Nancy Gibson, Board President

Have you noticed something amiss in a catch basin, local creek or waterway, including spotting someone dumping illegally into a storm drain? Water quality is one of Oak Lodge Water Services' main concerns.

Please call the District right away at (503) 654-7765 if you see a water quality concern.

When OLWS receives a water quality alert, we immediately notify the District's Pollution Prevention Specialist as well as on-call staff. In addition, we enter it into our electronic tracking system to insure we have a history of notifications.

Remember, if you see a water or sewer problem, you may be the first to know about it. Information provided to OLWS allows the District to contain the spill or break as soon as possible and begin clean up and repairs. We are committed to protecting water quality and restoring water/sewer services as quickly as possible, and *we do this with your help!*

Spring Rains Bring Growing Gardens!

– Five Tips to Protect Our Waterways

As we wish farewell to winter and prepare our gardens for spring it is important to remember that our actions impact the health of our watershed.

A few small changes on your part make a big difference.

Here are five easy tips to help protect our water environment:

- Always pick up after your pets and dispose of pet waste in the garbage can. This keeps harmful bacteria out of local ditches and creeks, which is upstream from another community's water source.
- Use mechanical methods to remove weeds rather than chemicals. Once weeds are removed, add cornmeal to the soil to act as a natural pre-emergent.
- Compost kitchen scraps, grass clippings and yard debris then add it to your soil. Compost is rich in nutrients that plants need. Using compost minimizes the need for additional fertilizers.
- Remove debris from drainage ways and catch basins. Never put clippings down the catch basins—nutrients from greens can harm water quality.
- When selecting plants to include in your garden, choose native plants that are best suited for the conditions you have. Natives require less water and fertilizer. Feel free to contact the District office to get more information about where to purchase native plants.
- When planning a landscaping project near a creek, be sure to contact the District office. Staff will help you determine if you need an erosion control permit and provide direction on preparing an erosion control plan. Erosion increases turbidity in streams, which affects water quality and aquatic life. Erosion can be avoided with simple measures on your part.

Small steps make a big difference. Remember, a healthy watershed begins with you!

SAND BAGS FOR SPRING RAINS! Remember during this wet season there is a sand bag station in the former Oak Lodge Sanitary District administration building parking lot available to District customers.

Have you noticed an area that is flooding but does not cause an emergency? Clackamas County's Planning and Zoning Department provides helpful "floodplain assessments" with flood-related data and support for sites that experience flood, drainage, and sewerage problems in order to advise and assist on possible alternatives to help reduce drainage issues. The Clackamas County Floodplain assessment contact information is 503-742-4500.

Better Method

for using sandbags

Keep water out.

Lay plastic sheeting across the side of the sandbag wall on the water side. Weigh down with additional sandbags.

