



NEWSLETTER

OLWS Provides Free Online Bill Pay – Use Our “online-billpay” Website!

Did you know?

You can pay your bill online, with no service fees. Use our dedicated site or go through the OLWS website at: <https://oaklodgewaterservices.org> to avoid any extra costs. You can also go straight to: <https://online-billpay.com> to pay your bill, view past statements, and manage autopay or paperless billing.

NOTE: There are some third-party websites that charge a fee to pay your utility bills. For example, doxo.com provides web based utility payments and seems to be connected to OLWS, but it is not. Unfortunately, doxo.com charges extra fees, and we cannot control when your payment is received, possibly resulting in a late payment. To make sure you’re paying OLWS directly, and for all the latest news, emergency notifications, rebate offers, and water conservation tips from OLWS, go through our website: <https://oaklodgewaterservices.org> and click on “Pay my Bill”.

EMERGENCY WATER DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE

EMERGENCY WATER DISTRIBUTION EXERCISE: OLWS will partner with Oak Lodge Community Emergency Response Team (OLCERT) and the Clackamas Fire District #1 to conduct an emergency water distribution exercise in 2019. The teams will provide potable water for pick up at a local site. More information to come!

Remember to store 14 gallons of water per person and have extra food on hand for emergencies. Update your winter supplies with blankets, battery powered radio, extra cell phone batteries and a snow shovel.

Emergency Alert Signup Reminder—Sign up for local emergency notifications at:
<https://www.clackamas.us/publicalerts>.

BOARD BYLINE – Nancy Gibson, Board President:

For the health and safety of your family and our community—plan to test your backflow annually each spring. Backflow devices protect your home’s potable plumbing system by making sure pollutants such as pet waste, pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers do not enter your home’s system. Is there a cross connection between the drinking water system and a non-potable source from your house or property? The yard irrigation system is the most common, but there are many other types of hazards out there that people should be concerned about. OLWS and the Oregon Health Authority require annual backflow/cross-connection testing to maintain clean, safe drinking water.

OLWS offers discounts for backflow testing recommended in the spring. Please visit: www.oaklodgewaterservices.org and search “Backflow”. Please call (503) 654-7765 with any questions.

OLWS BOARD MEETINGS:

All Board Meetings held at:

Oak Lodge Water Services
Administration Building
14496 SE River Rd.,
Oak Grove, OR 97267

* JANUARY 15 at 6 p.m.

* FEBRUARY 19 at 6 p.m.

The public is welcome!

Do You Love Your Pet *and* Clean Water? Remember to Scoop the Poop...

Five facts about picking up after your pet:

- **Who?**

Everyone! Surveys show that 35-50% of pet owners do not pick up after their dogs. On average, dogs leave about half a pound of waste behind each day near our local waterways. There are roughly 4,000 dogs in the OLWSD, which means 2,000 pounds of waste could reach our local creeks and rivers each day. You can become a clean water advocate and be part of the solution—all in one scoop.

- **How?**

Carry plastic bags or even biodegradable pet waste bags. Close the bag tightly and place in the trash.

- **When?**

Every single time.

- **Where?**

Everywhere! When you leave pet waste on the ground, storm water runoff carries it, untreated, to nearby storm drains and ditches where it runs directly into our local creeks and rivers. Once there, it can elevate bacteria levels and contaminate our waterbodies and downstream drinking water sources.

- **Why?**

Pet waste carries harmful bacteria, and sometimes parasites, or viruses. It can make people, especially children, very sick. It can also be dangerous to wildlife and other dogs. Rodents are very attracted to pet waste left on the ground, and can become vectors of disease.

- **What?**

Nutrients in pet waste may increase algae and weed growth in our water, which consume oxygen as they decompose, harming fish and aquatic life. Similarly, decaying pet waste also consumes oxygen and may release ammonia into water. Low oxygen levels and high ammonia can damage the health of fish and other aquatic life. Don't forget that humans appreciate healthy fish as food — all good reasons to pick up after your pet.



QUICK CHECKS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER: Turn off and drain irrigation systems; know how to shut off your water; wrap exposed pipes with insulation or heat tape; keep water moving by allowing a small trickle of water to run. **If your pipes do freeze:** shut off water immediately; thaw pipes with warm air; be careful when turning water back on; and check joints and pipes for cracks or leaks caused by freezing.

BOARDMAN WETLAND PROJECT UPDATE: Contractors are hard at work on Boardman Wetland in Oak Lodge Water Services District. The Oak Lodge community and project partners are watching the natural area take form. Recently OLWSD turned ownership of the area over to North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District. While Boardman Wetland is still months away from being ready to receive visitors, humans, birds, and other critters are paying attention to the developments.



The District has become aware of comments made online regarding the flooding of Jennings Avenue near Boardman Creek. Staff would like to take this opportunity to communicate with its ratepayers that the Boardman Wetland Restoration Project is a water quality improvement project, not a flooding mitigation project. While the flooding should be improved when the project is complete, it will not be eliminated. However, staff is in communications with Clackamas County Department of Transportation and Development about how our two organizations and the adjacent private property owners of the wetland can work together to fix this issue.

For future updates or questions regarding the project, please call Jason Rice at (503) 353-4202 or email him at jason@olwsd.org.