

**Board Byline: A Look Back at 2024 and What’s to Come**

As board members, our primary focus is to serve the best interests of our community, which includes ensuring the delivery of safe and reliable services to our customers. Achieving this goal requires us to repair or replace a portion of our infrastructure, which is the backbone of our services. Based on our assessments, approximately 17% of our wastewater mains are in critical condition. Though challenging, we are proactively addressing these issues through gradual investments.

For instance, construction will begin this month for a wastewater improvement project in the Jennings Lodge area. This project will replace sections of roughly 60-year-old wastewater pipes, ensuring service reliability and conserving resources in the long term. The project will leverage modern, cost-effective pipe replacement technology to fulfill our financial obligations and quality standards. More details about this project can be found below.

While there is still considerable distance to cover to achieve our long-term objectives, it's important to also acknowledge our 2024 achievements to date:

- 2,387 feet of water main pipes replaced, improving service reliability
- 42 fire hydrants replaced, supporting local fire response
- 429 stormwater facilities inspected, protecting the health of our watersheds
- 29,000 customers served across Oak Grove, Jennings Lodge, Milwaukie, and Gladstone

We extend our gratitude to you, our customers, for your ongoing support during these improvements. We wish you and your family a joyful holiday season.

Susan Keil  
*Board Chair*

**Construction Starting November 2024: Jennings Lodge Sewer Improvement Project**

This month, construction begins on the first part of a two-phased wastewater capital improvement project in the southern Jennings Lodge area.

**Project Name:** Lift Station 5 Sewer Improvements Project

**Purpose:** Replace over 4,000 lineal feet of damaged sewer pipe, which currently allows rainwater to enter and overburden our wastewater systems.

**Estimated Cost:** \$2,124,500

**Schedule:** Construction will begin in November and is expected to finish in spring of 2025. The schedule is subject to change based on weather conditions and construction requirements. Updates are available via our site.

**Potential Impacts:** Neighbors may notice heavy equipment in the area, as well as some noise and dust.

**Questions?:** Contact project lead Tessie Prentice, [tessie.prentice@olws.org](mailto:tessie.prentice@olws.org) or (503) 353-4226.



Visit our project page for updates:  
[OakLodgeWaterServices.org/LS5-sewer-improvements-project](https://OakLodgeWaterServices.org/LS5-sewer-improvements-project)



**Holiday Closures:** Our offices will be closed November 11, 28-29 • December 24-25 • January 1  
Staff are on-call via our main phone number for emergencies.

**Winter Reminder: Know How to Shut-Off Your Water Before Freezing Weather Arrives**

Prior years’ storms have shown that freezing weather can occur with little warning. Learn how to shut off water to your home before icy weather to mitigate pipe bursts or flooding if damage does occur.

**Locate your shut-off valve**

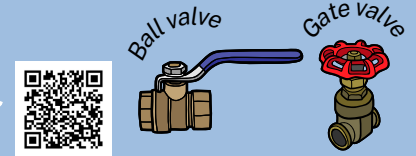
Your main water shut-off valve is commonly in one of these places:

- In the meter box at the street, on the side closest to your house
- In the crawl space or basement, where the water line enters the home
- In the garage, where the water line enters the wall or ceiling, near the water heater or laundry hookup
- Outside near the foundation, often protected by a concrete ring or clay pipe



**Know your shut-off mechanism**

Shut-off mechanisms can vary. They might be circular, like the ones commonly found on a hose bib, or have a plastic-coated handle. Some valves may require a special tool called a meter key, which is available at most hardware stores. It's important to note that the water and gas shut-off valves in some homes can be located close together, so be cautious when operating them.



Our friends at Tualatin Valley Water District have a helpful slideshow of shut-off valve examples.

**Need help locating your shut-off?**

If you’re having a water emergency and can’t find your shut-off, we can turn off your water at the meter. Call us at **(503) 654-7765**.



**Rain Ready: Sandbags Available to Combat Flooding**

Starting the first week of November, we’ll offer a limited number of sandbags to help our customers mitigate flooding during the rainy season. Pick up at:

**14611 SE River Road Oak Grove, OR 97267.** Call first for up-to-date availability: **(971) 291-4533**.

Other sandbag stations in Clackamas County can be found at: [clackamas.us/dm/sandbags.html](http://clackamas.us/dm/sandbags.html)



**Save Money This Summer by Managing Winter Usage**

Did you know that your winter water usage affects your summer bill? Oak Lodge uses the winter averaging system, where your winter water usage is used to calculate your wastewater bill for the year. This is because almost all the water you use enters the wastewater system during winter. In summer, much of it enters the ground via irrigation and gardening.

Visit our site for conservation tips:  
[OakLodgeWaterServices.org/conservation](http://OakLodgeWaterServices.org/conservation)

**Sign Up for Our Email List** 

Receive timely news directly to your inbox



**Make Your Voice Heard**

You’re invited to attend OLWS board meetings. Join via Zoom or in-person at 14496 SE River Road. Meetings will be held at 4:00 p.m. on:

November 12 | December 10 | January 14

Find more details at [OakLodgeWaterServices.org](http://OakLodgeWaterServices.org) or email [info@olws.org](mailto:info@olws.org) for assistance.

**Emergency Contact Information**

Our team is available 24/7 at **(503) 654-7765**. Please call us if you see water gushing from the street, ground, or from a manhole. Also contact us if you notice a sewer spill or witness illegal storm drain dumping.



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter  
[@OakLodgeWater](https://www.facebook.com/OakLodgeWater) for news and updates.