



# NEWSLETTER

**NEW GENERAL MANAGER—*Sarah Jo Chaplen, General Manager***

It is hard to believe that I joined Oak Lodge Water Services District less than three weeks ago. I want to thank everyone on the OLWS Team for their kindnesses to me, and the enthusiasm with which they have all answered my questions. I am continuing to learn how hard everyone works to serve our customers every day. It is also evident that OLWS employees all take a tremendous amount of pride in their work.

I so appreciate the Board’s Open House on October 17<sup>th</sup> that allowed me to begin to meet the community, and for them to meet me. In particular, Thelma Haggemiller did a marvelous job promoting the event via her community newsletter as did Baldwin van der Bijl in notifying the Oak Grove Community Council Members. My thanks to those who were able to come and chat with me, it made me feel welcomed. I want to continue this outreach, so please let me know if there are events that could help with this outreach, or organizations I should also include.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me at any time.

Sarah Jo Chaplen, OLWSD General Manager  
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 (503) 353-4200

**‘FLUSHABLE WIPES’—*Jim Martin, Chair of the Board***

Did you know that the term “flushable” is not legally defined or regulated by the Federal Trade Commission? Because of this, companies label disposable wipes as “flushable” because they can be technically tossed into the toilet and flushed down. Unfortunately these products fail to address the issues that arise once the wipes go down the pipes. In sewage treatment systems, wipes can become mega-rags, tangling together in the collection process and sometimes causing damage to system pumps. With your help we will keep our facilities functioning properly – please do NOT flush wipes. Dispose of them in your trash can instead. Thank you!

**IMPORTANT MEETING DATES**

2017 NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

2017 DECEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**NOVEMBER 21:**

**Oak Lodge Water Services Board Meeting at 6pm**

**DECEMBER 19:**

**Oak Lodge Water Services Board Meeting at 6pm**

All Board Meetings to be held at Oak Lodge Water Services Building:

14496 SE River Rd.,  
 Milwaukie, OR 97267

Public is welcome to attend these meetings.

## GOODBYE LEAVES, HELLO RAIN!



Winters in the Northwest can be long and rainy. The best way to weather them is to weatherize – storm drains that is! Rain can cause hazards.

Maintaining clear storm drains will greatly reduce the chance of flooding that can cause property damage and pose a risk for injuries. Leaves and debris can be washed into culverts and cause stormwater back-ups. Help prevent rising water by keeping storm drains in your neighborhood clear.

Ways to get “rain ready” include:

- Make sure that your gutters and yards are clear of debris
- Rake up the leaves – don’t blow leaves or debris into the street

Oak Lodge Water Services works hard to maintain the storm system. Help us keep the storm drains clear. For after-hours flooding services call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211.

## DON'T FLUSH WIPES OR PILLS! DON'T WASH GREASE!

*Personal wipes, pharmaceuticals, and fats and grease cause problems for our sewer system and for our water.*



When placed in water, toilet paper will break down in less than 10 seconds. Paper towels break down slowly over time. Personal wipes do not break down at all. Do not flush paper towels and personal wipes – throw them in the trash. Otherwise, they can clog the treatment plant pumps (see photo).

Also keep pills, pharmaceuticals and over-the-counter medications out of the sewer system. Many of the chemicals in these compounds cannot be removed in the treatment process. They end up in the river, and then in aquatic life like the fish that humans enjoy.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office provides a year-round drug take back program. There is a secure drop box at their main office, 9101 SE Sunnybrook Road. This location is open from 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday through Friday, and 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM weekends and holidays. Other nearby locations include the Gladstone Police Department at 535 Portland Avenue, and the Milwaukie Police Department at 3200 SE Harrison. Both of these locations are open from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.



Fats, oils and grease (FOG) will slowly clog your pipes when you pour them down the drain. Not only do they clog pipes, but they are difficult and costly to remove. Rather than dump these substances down the drain, place them in a covered can and freeze them, then throw the can out on trash day.