

## Board Byline

By Susan Keil, Board President

First, I want to share an update with you regarding the transition to an Authority. We will continue to be called Oak Lodge Water Services and will use the acronym (OLWS). The first governing body of the 'Oak Lodge Water Services Authority' was elected during the Special Election on August 23, 2022 and installed on September 16, 2022. Our Board serves on a volunteer basis and, like you, we are customers and live in the community. Check out the 'Board of Directors' webpage to read more about each person.

As our infrastructure is aging it is critical for OLWS to make smart investments and work to keep rates affordable. One major accomplishment in 2022 from the Water Master Plan was replacing 3,800 feet of pipe on Aldercrest Rd. This project was a \$1.6 million dollar investment in your water system, paid using funds saved from your rate dollars. The typical life span of this investment is 75 years. This project had a major impact in the neighborhood. We want to extend our thanks to the neighbors on Aldercrest Rd for their patience during this project.



Looking ahead, the Wastewater Master Plan which will be finalized in 2023 will prioritize the work that needs to be completed on the wastewater collection system. We all use our community's wastewater collection system multiple times a day, probably without thinking about it - when we shower, wash dishes and clothes, use the toilet, etc. Investments and ongoing maintenance of the wastewater collection system help protect public health and the environment.

Stay connected with us. If you're interested in learning more, check out the "Active Projects" page on our website.

## Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

FOG – fats, oils, and grease — is a problem for all of us. When FOG goes down the drain it cools and hardens and sticks to the pipes in your home or business and in the public wastewater system. It builds up in pipes, and eventually blocks water from flowing through. When that happens, used water can back up into your home or business or cause a wastewater overflow. It's messy, and it can be expensive, but we can all take steps to prevent FOG.



By following a few simple steps, you can help prevent wastewater backups by:

- Pouring cooled fats, oils and grease into a covered, disposable container and tossing it into your garbage instead of down sink drains.
- Soaking up remaining FOG with paper towels and placing in the trash.
- Scraping food scraps into your compost or trash before washing dishes.
- Using sink strainers to catch any remaining food waste while washing dishes.

## Community Participation

You're invited to attend Board meetings. The public may attend through Zoom video conference or in-person (14496 SE River Road). The upcoming regular meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on:

- November 15, December 20 & January 17

Learn how to attend at [OakLodgeWaterServices.org](https://OakLodgeWaterServices.org) or email [info@olwsd.org](mailto:info@olwsd.org) for assistance.

## Sandbags Available

If you need sandbags for residential water flow protection, a small number are available for our customers. Call ahead to ensure sandbag availability: (503) 353-4207. Locations of other sandbag stations in Clackamas County can be found here: [clackamas.us/dm/sandbags.html](http://clackamas.us/dm/sandbags.html)



## Breaks in the System

Cold weather is a major cause of breaks in our water pipes. If you see a water, wastewater or storm problem — you may be the first to know about it.

- During leaf season your help will make a big difference. Prevent winter flooding by cleaning your gutters and curbsides regularly to keep the storm drains clear of leaves and sticks. In our area, Clackamas County provides street sweeping services and takes inquiries about sites with regular drainage problems.
- If a catch basin in the street is completely filled with debris, before flooding occurs call us at (503) 654-7765.
- If you are concerned about a site that floods regularly, contact Clackamas County's Planning and Zoning – Floodplain Assessment at (503) 742-4500.
- For after-hours flooding help, call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211.

## Online Watersheds Workshop Series

Learn more about the North Clackamas Watershed through this 3-part workshop series hosted by the North Clackamas Watershed Council via Zoom on the following dates from 12:00pm - 1:00pm followed by a 30-minute Q&A until 1:30pm:

- Tuesday, November 8
- Wednesday, November 9
- Thursday, November 10

You can RSVP for one, two or all three workshops. Details at: [tinyurl.com/ncwatersheds](http://tinyurl.com/ncwatersheds)

## New Website, Same Services

Our digital doorstep received a makeover! You can still find us at [OakLodgeWaterServices.org](http://OakLodgeWaterServices.org), but with a new cleaner layout that makes it easier to find the information you need. If you have questions or having trouble finding something, please contact Alexa Morris, Outreach & Communications Specialist, at (503) 353-4219. or by email at [alexa@olwsd.org](mailto:alexa@olwsd.org).



## Emergency Contact Information

Our team is available 24 hours a day at (503) 654-7765. If you see water gushing up out of either the street, ground, or from a manhole, please call us. Use the same number if you notice sewer spills or if you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain.



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