



NEWSLETTER

GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH—*Board of Directors*

The search for the next General Manager of OLWS has begun. The Board approved a new job description; hired Local Government Personnel Institute to conduct the search; defined competencies expected of candidates and posted materials, related to the District and position, on regional water, wastewater and public sector websites. The competencies include strong financial management skills, leadership with experience in problem solving, solid experience in managing public sector operations and excellent communication and interpersonal skills. The Board hopes to have filled the position in about 90 days. Jason Rice is serving as General Manager in the interim.

CONSOLIDATION UPDATE—*Jason Rice, Interim General Manager*

The past few months have been productive towards the consolidation of our two past Districts. Below are some of the highlights:

- The 2018 Fiscal Year Budget, with all three utilities combined, was recommended for approval by the Budget Committee to the Board at its June Board meeting.
- A Collective Bargaining Agreement was negotiated and voted on by the Union Staff for ratification. The Board will be discussing and voting on ratification at its June Board meeting.
- A consolidated Employee Handbook is under review and is expected to be implemented in July.
- A consolidated set of Rules and Regulations (or code) is under review now and is expected to be passed via an Ordinance by the Board this Fall.
- The water building remodel plan set is advancing and is expected to be advertised for bids this fall for construction next Spring/Summer. This remodel will enable the District to sell what was the Sanitary Administrative Building.

Each of these items are important steps towards the complete consolidation of our two past Districts and I am proud that Staff was able to accomplish these in such short order.

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

Jason Rice, Interim General Manager
 jason@olwsd.org
 (503) 353-4202

FEES UPDATE

OLWS is a Special District financed through fees for services. Fees for wastewater and watershed protection are set in July each year according to budgetary needs in operations of the services and capital improvement projects in both areas as well as debt service payments. As part of our consolidation changes, the fees for drinking water which are normally set in January of each year will now be aligning with the sanitary fee schedule to set in July for the fiscal year. The drinking water fees are also based on the needs of the operations and capital improvement projects that are water specific. This proposed budget will include a 3.35% increase in the wastewater fees, a 9.4% increase in the watershed protection fees, and a 4% increase in the service charge portion of the water fees (only a 2% increase will apply on July of 2017 as a pro-rated increase from what was effective in January pre-consolidation).

IMPORTANT MEETING DATES

JULY 2017						
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					

AUGUST 2017						
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		

JULY 18:

Oak Lodge Water Services Board Meeting at 6pm

AUGUST 15:

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.

PARTING WITH PESTICIDES

Because low levels of pesticides continue to be found in water samples collected from the Clackamas River and its tributaries – Oak Lodge’s water source! – Oak Lodge Water Services supports partners Clackamas River Water Providers and the Clackamas River Basin Council, as they implement a “Parting with Pesticides Pledge” program. Homeowners or residents in any watershed can protect water quality for people, fish, wildlife, drinking water and pets by helping to prevent pesticides from reaching our waterways, and owners in the **Clackamas Watershed** can additionally receive a nifty “Pesticide Wise” yard sign.

Participants in **Clackamas Watershed** who are using few to no pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) can sign the pledge and display a beautiful, basin specific yard sign to highlight the important steps they are taking to promote and enhance the health of our watershed. If you live in the **Willamette River Watershed**, you also can still support our salmon by following the pledge.

The Pledge includes the following actions:

- Reducing my use of pesticides-including weed and feed
- Choosing safer alternative weed and pest control products when I can
- Always reading and following label instructions
- Making sure I properly sort and dispose of pesticides
- Spraying only in ideal conditions (not in wind or rain)
- Talking to my neighbors about being Pesticide Wise

From the Clackamas River Water Providers website:

<http://www.clackamasproviders.org/pesticide-reduction-efforts/>

STORMWATER and DRINKING WATER UPDATES

So you want to fertilize your lawn without harming the environment?

Summertime is the season that homeowners want to maintain and even improve their yards and landscapes, keeping Oak Grove beautiful all year long. Application of certain nutrients enhances soil health but can harm waters, fish, and good critters living in our water. With proper application of fertilizers, plants and soils can be strengthened without harming water quality.

Oak Lodge Water Services found these tips from Oregon State University Extension Service to help with applying fertilizers:

Excessive fertilizer can “burn” plants by increasing the mineral salt concentration in the soil. It can discourage flowering in favor of leaf growth. And extra nitrogen not used by plants may be leached into the groundwater as nitrate, a common pollutant.

Fertilizing lawns and gardens can accidentally lead to the contamination of surface waters - ponds, puddles, creeks, marshes, lakes and rivers. Even a little too much can cause damage. OSU scientists have discovered that a level of nitrogen-based compounds considered safe for human drinking water is enough to kill some species of amphibians.

To minimize the chance of excess nutrients getting into surface and ground waters, Gail Glick Andrews, water quality educator with the OSU Extension Service, suggests the following simple steps:

- Be aware that heavy spring rains can wash away nitrate in the soil. If you use chemical fertilizers, hold back some, or all, of the recommended amount when preparing garden seedbeds. Instead, add the nitrogen fertilizer around the plants a few weeks after they emerge.
- Don't over-water after applying fertilizer. Too much water too quickly will run off, carrying fertilizer with it. Too much water applied more slowly can carry the nitrate beyond the reach of roots, and into the groundwater.
- Don't add fertilizers that your landscape does not need. If your plants look unhealthy, make sure lack of nitrogen is the problem before you add fertilizer. Sometimes in western Oregon the soil is too acidic for nitrogen to be taken up effectively. Check the soil's pH and use dolomite lime to increase the pH if needed, before adding nitrogen.
- Make sure that you put fertilizer only where it is needed. Sweep up any spilled fertilizer from a sidewalk or driveway before the rains carry it into the storm drain or local creek.
- Leave lawn clippings on the lawn, rather than removing them, to return nutrients to the lawn without the need for as much fertilizer. To reduce mowing, cut back on fertilizer and water.
- Conserve water. The less excess flow, the less chance for leaching contaminants into any water. Use low flow devices such as drip irrigation and soaker hoses. Let your lawn go brown in the summer.

With your help, we can keep Oak Grove beautiful as well as healthy. Thank you for your efforts to make our land and waters safe and clean.

Information provided in part from OSU Extension’s website:

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/gardening/node/54/print>