

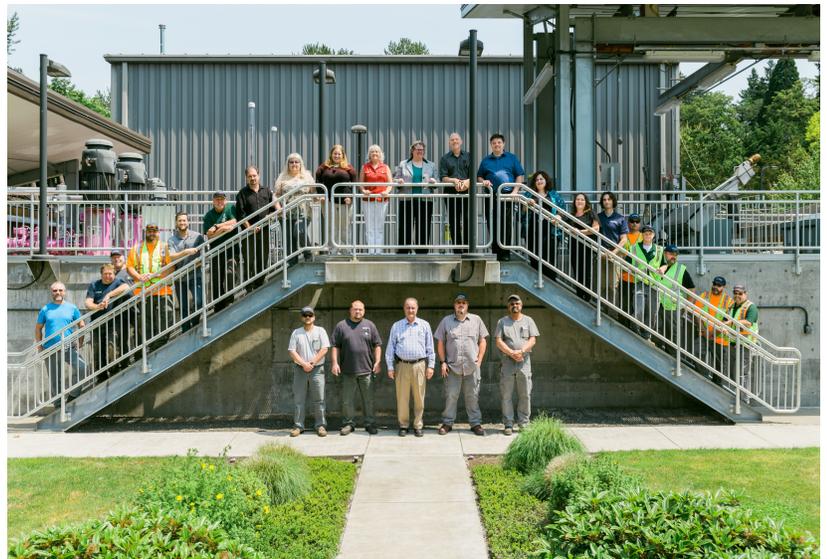
# NEWSLETTER

## **OLWS Receives Platinum Award**

This summer, Oak Lodge Water Services received the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) *Platinum Peak Performance Award* for outstanding environmental achievement in the 2017 calendar year.

This award goes to our Water Reclamation Facility for a 100% consistent record of compliance with our permits over a consecutive five-year period. The OLWS Water Reclamation Facility treats up to 7.5 million gallons per day of wastewater from about 8,500 customers in Oak Grove, Jennings Lodge, and parts of Gladstone and Milwaukie.

NACWA is the nation's recognized leader in regulatory, legislative, and legal clean water advocacy – helping to ensure a strong, sustainable clean water future. Oak Lodge Water Services is proud of our strong track record in the protection of our waterways.



## **BOARD BYLINE – Nancy Gibson, Board President:**

There is a lot going on at your water services district. Oak Lodge Water Services is focused on providing safe and efficient water and sewer treatment, collection services and infrastructure investments, as well as activities that protect and enhance the water quality in the streams which flow through our community.

Each year, your District operations include: delivery of nearly a billion gallons of safe drinking water; reading 48,000 water meters; inspection and cleaning of 2,000 valves and 760 hydrants; and flushing about 55 miles of water pipelines.

OLWS operates over 100 miles of sewer pipe; 5 sewage pumping stations; and a world-class Water Reclamation Facility that turns sewage into clean water which then flows into the Willamette River.

There are 4 watersheds in the community and the District is responsible for the water quality in the streams that are fed by these watersheds. OLWS inspects and cleans 142 catch basins each year as well as engaging the public in learning more about keeping our local streams healthy.

*For more information visit our website, and to schedule a tour call (503) 654-7765.*

## **OLWS BOARD MEETINGS:**

All Board Meetings held at:

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

**\* SEPTEMBER 18 at 6 p.m.**

**\* OCTOBER 16 at 6 p.m.**

*The public is welcome!*

# PREPARING FOR FALL – LEAF CLEAN UP!

It is that time of year again—time to make our leaves work for us and not against our waterways. Here are a few easy steps to get your leaves working for you:



You can make leaf litter into new soil without killing your grass. One way to do this is to mow the leaves over to form a thin mulch, then leave this spread thinly in areas that need nutrient replenishment. Because this ground leaf litter is not yet soil or compost, do not use it as a replacement for compost. Here's what happens before it becomes finished soil:



- Invertebrates shred plant materials into tiny pieces, allowing soil bacteria and fungi to thrive.
- Fungi, looking like mold, sends out filamentous threads which release acids and enzymes necessary to break down dead plant material. This makes nutrients available to your resident plants.
- As the leaf litter decomposes, water and inorganic nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus are released into the soil to be taken up by plants and used for new growth.

If the spread of leaves and plant litter do not work for the aesthetics of your garden, an alternative is to start a compost pile with leaves and grass clippings.

To learn more about keeping compost healthy, visit:

- ⇒ <https://soilsmatter.wordpress.com/2014/06/23/what-is-compost/> or visit:
- ⇒ <https://www.soils.org/discover-soils/soils-in-the-city/community-gardens/amending-soil>.

In addition to readying your yards, cleaning your gutters and curbsides regularly will help keep the storm drains clear. Do not blow leaves into the streets. Clackamas County provides street sweeping services in the OLWS District. Clackamas County will also take inquiries about sites that experience flooding and drainage problems. If you are concerned about a site that floods regularly, contact Floodplain Assessment in Planning and Zoning at 503-742-4500.

For after-hours flooding services, call Clackamas County Non-Emergency Dispatch at (503) 655-8211. *If you have questions about this information, please contact OLWS.*

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS—Planning for Your Pets:** Now that you have 14 gallons of water per person and food stored for emergencies, remember to think of the needs of your pets.

Pets need about 1 ounce of water per pound of body weight for 14 days, with some extra water for washing. They also need 2 weeks of food and pet supplies like waste bags. Finally, make sure you have tags on your pet and a few photos on hand in case you get separated.



## **IN MEMORIAM: Trevor Lierman**

Oak Lodge Water Services honors the life of Line Maintenance Technician Trevor Lierman. After 21 years of service to the District, Trevor passed away on July 17, 2018. He had a wealth of knowledge about the District and contributed to the success of its inner workings. He exhibited a strong and caring way of connecting with students at District water quality events and in the photo can be seen encouraging the curiosity of young people. He will be missed by OLWS staff and Board members.