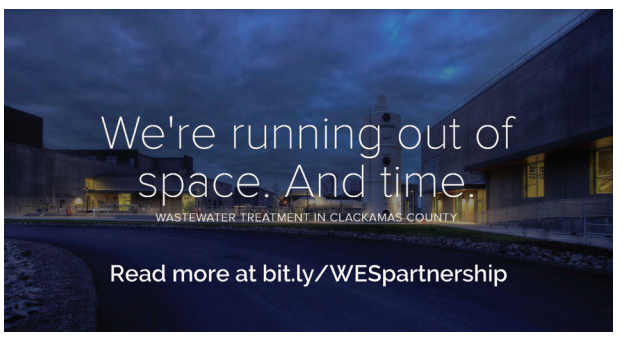
Winter 2017 Volume 19, Number 1

CitizenNews

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Water Environment Services Partnership benefits 165,000 customers

Clackamas County Commissioners approved the formation of the **Water Environment Services Partnership** in November, ensuring long-term certainty and stability regarding wastewater collection and treatment services for 165,000 customers in northern Clackamas County.



The unanimous vote formalized the long-running collaboration between the county's two largest wastewater service districts and will result in continued, substantial savings for customers in our service areas. For two decades, the Tri-City Service District and Clackamas County Service District No. 1 have worked together to save millions of dollars for ratepayers by sharing equipment, resources, staff and operating space, all of which help maintain some of the lowest rates in the region.

Cities and communities served by the partnership include Boring, Fischer's Forest Park, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Hoodland, Johnson City, Milwaukie, Oregon City, West Linn, and other areas of unincorporated Clackamas County. The partnership, run by the county's Water Environment Services department, will treat more than six billion gallons of wastewater every year.

cont'd on page 10

Serious changes to SNAP benefits

See page 4

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

SNAP Putting Healthy Food Within Reach

USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

The future of county road maintenance.

See page 8.

2016: A year of accomplishments

Led by the guidance of Clackamas County Commissioners, the county served the public in many ways during the past 12 months. Some major accomplishments that help ensure a high quality of life for our residents are below. Many of the entries are detailed in previous editions of Citizen News. The placement of those stories (when applicable) follows the entry. All 2016 newsletters are online at bit.ly/ClackCoCitizenNews.

- **Emergency radio system replacement:** In February, commissioners referred a measure to the May ballot for voters to consider replacing an obsolete emergency radio system used by firefighters, police, and other emergency responders. The measure overwhelmingly passed, enacting a $59 million general obligation bond. For more information, please visit C800.org. (Spring, page 2)
- **Oregon Legislature gives Willamette Falls Locks $500,000:** In April, the county received $500,000 on behalf of the Willamette Falls Locks Working Group to support an economic-potential study and to explore limited temporary repairs for the Locks. The Locks have been closed since 2011.

  The funding secured from the Oregon Legislature was a big victory for local communities who believe reopening the Locks can support local economic development. The county identified the repairs as a priority for its 2016 state legislative agenda, actively advocating for the request throughout the session. (Summer, page 3)
- **Marijuana code enhancements:** In May, commissioners revised guidelines to support code enforcement of marijuana-related businesses. With those changes, county staff can better respond to complaints about marijuana-related issues. (Summer, page 3)

cont'd on page 3

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CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Citizen News
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5 TEXT-TO-911

8 TOLBERT BRIDGE OPENS

12 TEEN ART CONTEST

Services fair and ice cream social

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017
12 p.m. to 3 p.m

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Krupp's Korner: *Services Fair & Ice Cream Social*

by County Administrator Don Krupp

The disincorporation of Damascus last July was a historic and monumental change for residents living within that community and for Clackamas County, which has taken on many responsibilities formerly entrusted to the municipality.

With this responsibility comes opportunity. We now have thousands of additional people living in unincorporated Clackamas County who may not be aware of all of the services we offer.

To help spread the word, Clackamas County is holding a Services Fair and Ice Cream Social on Saturday, Jan. 28 from noon to 3 p.m. at Sunnyside Community Church, 16444 SE Hwy 212. The event is open to the public and provides a great opportunity for all residents – and particularly our newly-minted populace from Damascus – to learn about the services and programs Clackamas County provides.

The event will feature individual booths and exhibits that visitors can tour, including one serving ice cream! Some of the booths will feature:

- Centerstone's Mental Health Crisis and Urgent Walk-in Services, Get Trained to Help, and Suicide Prevention
- Workforce training to assist large and small businesses in Clackamas County in need of great employees and training programs targeted at increasing the employability and wage potential of special populations
- Full-service medical facilities that can help you with a wide range of medical, dental, and mental health needs, regardless of your ability to pay
- Volunteer opportunities to help seniors, people with disabilities, and residents lacking resources and in need of social services
- What to do in a disaster: Identifying hazards, developing emergency plans, and coordinating response activities

And much more, including booths about tourism, traffic issues, land use planning, septic systems, sustainability and wastewater.

Please come learn about our programs and services, speak with our county staff, share your ideas, and enjoy some ice cream and refreshments. We hope you'll join us!

Sincerely,

Don Krupp
Clackamas County Administrator

2017 legislative agenda

Did you know that Clackamas County adopts annual state and federal legislative agendas? Every year, our Government Affairs team advocates in Salem and Washington, D.C. to enrich and better our area and your quality of life.

Some of our focuses include asking the Oregon Legislature and the U.S. Congress for federal/state road project funding, and furthering the county's interest in revitalizing the Willamette Falls area.

Interested in reviewing our state and federal priorities for 2017? Check them out today at bit.ly/ClackCoGovAffairs!

Property tax info released

Property tax information for 2016-17 was released in October by the Clackamas County Assessor.

Did you know that property taxes in Clackamas County support 133 local government taxing districts, including 18 school districts, 16 cities, 14 fire districts, and the county? Other taxing districts providing services include water districts, public safety districts, the Port of Portland, and Metro. Log on to clackamas.us/at/ today to explore tax statement information, what's new for this tax year, and more.

GET INVOLVED WITH CLACKAMAS COUNTY!

ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Interested in volunteering for your community? We have nearly 50 different boards or commissions where you can personally make a difference in your government's direction.

COMMUNITY PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

CPOs are part of our citizen involvement program! They advise our commissioners on land use matters affecting their communities (members are notified of proposed land use actions and legislative changes within their boundaries).

Explore all the options at **bit.ly/CitizenInvolvement** today!

CitizenNews

The Citizen News is produced quarterly by the Public and Government Affairs Department (PGA). It is mailed to nearly every household in the county.

Contact PGA about stories in the Citizen News:

Amy Kyle at 503-655-8751 or akyle@clackamas.us

Contact your commissioners at:

bcc@clackamas.us
503-655-8581

2051 Kaen Road
Oregon City

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Commission Chair
Jim Bernard

Commissioner
Ken Humberston

Commissioner
Paul Savas

Commissioner
Martha Schrader

Commissioner , Pos. #5
Vacant

Assessor
Bob Vroman

Clerk
Sherry Hall

District Attorney
John Foote

Justice of the Peace
Karen Brisbin

Sheriff
Craig Roberts

Treasurer
Shari Anderson

Accomplishments, from page 1

- **Veterans Covenant:** In May, the county hosted a signing event for the Veterans Covenant – a pledge by the county and partners to support military veterans and their families. It was co-sponsored by Clackamas Community College.

  The signing reiterated the county's pledge to provide free assistance to veterans through our Veterans Services Offices, advocate for state and federal VA benefits, and work with business and community partners to connect veterans to needed resources. To learn more about our veteran services, visit bit.ly/ClackCoVets. (Summer, page 3)

- **Budget adopted:** In June, commissioners formally adopted the fiscal year 2016-17 budget. The new budget included funds for: seed money to address the shelter needs of homeless veterans; a part-time heritage coordinator; positions providing enhanced response to domestic violence; services for groups that face barriers to entering the workforce; and efforts to promote safe and litter-free use of county rivers and parks. Read about the budget process and view materials at bit.ly/ClackCoBudget. (Summer, page 2)

- **Sunrise Expressway opens:** July 1 saw the opening of the Sunrise Expressway, which extended the Milwaukie Expressway to SE 122nd Avenue. The new 2.15-mile highway allows residents, freight traffic and visitors to travel more quickly, efficiently and safely through the Clackamas Industrial Area.

  This project, managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), was supported by the county's purchase of right-of-way and is enhanced by several county projects on adjacent roads including Tolbert, Lawnfield, Mather, and Minuteman Way. These new and improved roadways in the area support area jobs, reduce traffic delays and congestion, improve safety, and support long-term employment opportunities. (Summer, page 4)

- **Marijuana tax referred (and passed):** In July, commissioners referred a ballot measure

to voters to approve a 3 percent sales tax on recreational marijuana items in unincorporated Clackamas County. The tax, overwhelmingly passed by voters in November, was added to the 17 percent state tax already in place (for a total of 20 percent). It took effect this month (January).

  Based on state law, the tax applies to "marijuana, cannabinoid products, cannabinoid concentrates and cannabinoid extracts." Commissioners committed to spend the revenue for code enforcement, law enforcement, addiction treatment, and related public health and safety needs. (Summer, page 1)

- **Affordable housing:** In July, a grand opening was held for the Town Center Courtyards – an affordable housing apartment building for 60 families located near the Clackamas Town Center. Families began moving in that month. The county contributed nearly $3 million to help fund the complex. No county general funds were used.

- **Online resource for farmers:** In October, the county helped launch ONEStop Farmgate, a website designed to make it easier for farmers to find resources to be successful. The website makes it simple for growers to search for and find resources and information from a variety entities. Visit ClackamasFarmOneStop.com for more information. (Fall, page 2)

- **Property tax exemption for public safety officer widows/widowers:** In October, commissioners passed a resolution enacting a partial property tax exemption for the surviving spouses of public safety officers killed in the line of duty.

  The exemption affects the surviving spouses of both police officers and firefighters killed on the job. The Oregon Legislature passed a bill in June allowing counties to take this action. (Fall, page 3)

- **Water Environment Services partnership:** In November, commissioners formalized the partnership of the county's two largest wastewater service districts to provide long-term certainty and stability for more than 165,000 customers. See the front page of this Citizen News for more.

- **Dahl Memorial rededication:** In November, commissioners saw the realization of their efforts to relocate the Larry Dahl Memorial to the county's Oregon City campus. Dahl is the only county native to receive the Medal of Honor, as he sacrificed his life to save others by throwing his body on a grenade during the Vietnam War. For years, the memorial previously stood in a somewhat hidden, nondescript area. Read the video recap of the event below.

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

In November, the county held a rededication ceremony for the memorial honoring Larry Dahl, the county's sole native Medal of Honor recipient. The memorial was moved from a somewhat hidden, nondescript area to the county's Circle of Honor, which commemorates the actions and sacrifices of local veterans and their families.

Dahl was killed in action during the Vietnam War, sacrificing his life by throwing his body on a grenade lobbed into the gun truck he was riding in. His action saved the lives of other members of his company.

You can watch the full, moving event online (see left) and a powerful video about Dahl's sacrifice (see below).

Memorial rededication ceremony
bit.ly/LarryDahlMemorial

The Honor and Sacrifice of Larry Dahl
bit.ly/DahlSacrifice

SNAP benefit changes to affect residents

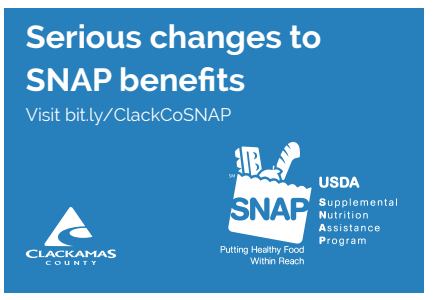
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Oregon Trail Card (EBT) or Food Stamps, offers financial help for food to low-income individuals and families. This program is in place to ensure members of the community don't go hungry.

Due to a change in federal law from early 2016, changes to the SNAP program are coming to some Oregon counties. The impacts are starting to reach our residents.

Beginning this month (January), some SNAP recipients will no longer qualify for more than three months of assistance within a three-year period. Time limits went into effect on Jan. 1, but are just beginning to be enforced statewide. This means that some recipients in Clackamas County could be without SNAP benefits as soon as April 1.

This change will impact people between the ages of 18 and 50 who do not have a disability and do not have dependents under age 18.

There are a few ways to stay eligible for SNAP benefits longer than these three months. If recipients perform work-related activities for 20 hours a week (or an average of 80 hours per month), the three-month limit does not apply. This includes work for pay, work in exchange for goods or services, or unpaid volunteering.



There are other ways for people or life experiences that qualify individuals for exemption. Pregnant women, homeless persons, part-time students, and adults who have a physical or mental health condition or impairment preventing them from full-time work are just some examples. For a full list, call the Oregon Department of Human Services in Clackamas County at 503-731-4777.

If you are a SNAP recipient and wish to see if your benefits are changing or see if you qualify for exemption, call 503-731-4777 or 503-673-6625 or visit bit.ly/ClackCoSNAP.

Nearly one in six households in Oregon is considered "food insecure" by the Department of Agriculture. There are numerous community programs and food systems in Clackamas County that offer free meals, groceries and produce to anyone who needs it. If you need help finding food, visit the Oregon Food Bank's website at OregonFoodBank.org and use their Food Finder tool (under "Find Help") to see what is available in your area.

Our role in battling the prescription opioid crisis

An injured ankle. A visit to the dentist's office. A bad back.

It doesn't take much for some people to require medical treatment. In some cases – far too often in Oregon – the remedy is a prescription for any number of drugs that quell the pain. That prescription frequently turns out to be for an opioid.

Oregon has one of the highest rates of prescription opioid abuse in the country. We rank second in non-medical use of prescription pain medications, with over 100 million opioid pills being prescribed each year. This breaks down to roughly 25 pills for every man, woman and child in Oregon. As a result, opioid prescribing for pain has generated an epidemic of drug overdose, unstable pain care, and addiction during the last 15 years.

Our residents are not immune to these negative outcomes. Opioid addiction and overdose can touch anyone's life regardless of age, race, income or where they live. While opioids sometimes have a role to play in pain management, they are not as safe and effective in treating chronic pain than originally thought.

According to Dr. Andrew Suchocki, Medical Director of the county's Health Centers, "confronting the opioid epidemic requires a major shift in our defining expectations for how pain is managed and the use of opioids."

Suchocki believes the current change in culture around prescribing practices is crucial.

"There was once a belief that prescription pain medication did more help than harm, and this is no longer the case," he said. "Such a change doesn't change how we treat pain in emergent or end-of-life situations. Opiates are crucial medicines that alleviate suffering when used according to best practices."

An issue of this magnitude requires a comprehensive approach in order for it to be solved. Our response to this epidemic includes action on the part of public health personnel, physicians, law enforcement and insurance companies, all working together to reduce harms from prescription opioids.

But what can county residents do? Here are three tips to consider:

- **Is it necessary?** With little evidence to support a safe and effective use of opioids for controlling chronic pain, patients should ask whether the prescription is really necessary. Alternative treatments such as exercise, physical therapy and acupuncture can be very effective for managing pain with much less harm.
- **Store the medication safely**. Unwanted and unused medications left in our medicine cabinets fuel the opioid abuse epidemic by contributing to misuse and abuse, and by creating easy access to those for whom the prescription wasn't written. Store medication in a locked location away from children and teens, and safely dispose of them at local drop box locations and take-back events. **It is critical to not flush medications down the toilet because the medications can contaminate the local water supply**.
- **Help end the stigma of addiction**. Because opioid addiction doesn't discriminate, we are all susceptible. Everyone benefits by creating a supportive environment where people can seek the help they need without judgment.

For more information and resources regarding opioids, go to AnyonePDX.org, a partner organization of Clackamas County.

TEDMED comes to county

In December, our Public Health Division hosted TEDMED 2016, a health-focused division of TED Talks. TEDMED is known for sharing stories that inform, inspire, engage, and prompt action across a variety of spectrums.

Just under 100 public health professionals viewed four TEDMED speeches at Clackamas Community College. Speakers addressed a wide range of topics including suicide, lead exposure, infectious diseases, and the impacts of stress and violence on health. After the viewings, attendees discussed work they are doing in their own communities to address these kinds of threats.

"Hosting a TEDMED Live gathering is an initial step toward identifying invisible threats and improving the health, well-being and equity across our county," said Public Health Director Dawn Emerick. "We are engaged and ready to work with our partners so our residents can live longer, healthier lives."

This type of storytelling can foster a creative forum for partners to discuss strengthening the policies, systems and environments that support the health of residents. TEDMED 2016 was a fantastic opportunity for everyone who works at and lives in the county to be involved in the conversation about forward-thinking, public health work.

The county is already making plans to host another TEDMED event next year.

Housing waitlists set to open Jan. 23

The Housing Authority of Clackamas County (HACC) will open its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Section 8 Waiting Lists from Jan. 23 to 29. Being put on a waitlist is a significant step for those seeking housing, due to the sheer number of applicants and the limited number of spots available. HACC officials are expecting as many as 8,000 applications during this open period with approximately 2,000 spots available on the waitlist.

Applications will be selected and ordered using a random lottery system. The day and time an application is submitted (during Jan. 23 to 29) has no impact on whether an application will be selected. Completing the appropriate application is important. Strict eligibility requirements are in place for different waitlists, so being certain to fill out and submit the appropriate application that best fits a person's situation is crucial. To find out which waitlist fits best, go to bit.ly/ClackCoHousingAuthority.

HACC will provide computer access and help applying at the following locations: The Housing Authority Administrative Office at 3930 South Gain St. in Oregon City; Clackamas Heights Community Room (Spanish & Russian translators are available at this location) at 13900 South Gain St. in Oregon City; Hillside Park Property Management Office at 2889 SE Hillside Court in Milwaukie.

Text-to-911

Clackamas County has teamed up with other regional counties to make Text-to-911 a reality. Residents may now text emergency messages to 911 responders when speaking on the phone isn't an option.

Why is this program important? Texting benefits people that may not be able to speak due to an emergency. Research shows that the four common types of emergency texts will include: messages from deaf/hard-of-hearing people; those experiencing domestic violence (victims/witnesses believe calling 911 would make the situation worse); passengers of vehicles driven by intoxicated drivers; and individuals with suicidal intent (who may feel more comfortable texting).

This program is making a difference. Just over the last seven months (since the program began), Clackamas 911 (a county department) has received emergency texts related to domestic violence situations, a search and rescue effort on Mount Hood, and harassment on a MAX Train. As of early December, we've received 35 different emergency text streams.

In addition to Clackamas County, the program is available is Clatsop, Columbia, north Marion, Multnomah, and Washington counties in Oregon, and Clark County in Washington state.

Text-to-911 should only be used when a caller is unable to make a voice call to 911. Voice calls help responders gather information more quickly about the emergency, relevant locations and potential hazards. Remember: Call if you can, text if you can't.

It's also important to note that 911 can only accept written words – not pictures, video or emojis at this time. Any picture-based message will garble text language or simply stop messages from being delivered. Also, 911 cannot be included in a group message or sent while your phone is roaming.

For full information and more tips, visit nwtext911.info.

Join us!

Clackamas County's Community Health Center Council is looking for new members.

This is a great way to help ensure that Clackamas County's services respond to community needs.

Learn more by visiting bit.ly/ClackCoHealthCouncil

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Need help repairing your home?

We offer low interest loans to help low-income Clackamas County residents pay for repairs to their homes.

To see if you qualify, call 503-655-8591 or visit our website: bit.ly/CCComDev

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Creating safer communities with restorative justice

Our Juvenile Department is committed to the principles and values of restorative justice. This means we are committed to the needs of victims of crime, the needs of the youth committing the crime, and the needs of the community in which the crime occurred. The needs of each of these stakeholders are dependent on the needs of the other.

Our approach to youth involved with our Juvenile Department is:

- hold them accountable
- give them opportunities to develop new skills
- support them in their integration into the community
- provide them help developing their social competencies
- make determinations if youth can safely remain in the community with supports, or if youth need to be placed in detention

Green Corps members learning farming skills and teamwork

Meaningful accountability addresses the harms of the youth's actions, encourages empathy and responsibility, and works to motivate them to be contributing citizens in their community.

A crime victim's interests also need to be valued. Those interests include: providing information on the steps being taken to address the harm done to them; acknowledging how they were harmed and subsequently impacted; and encouraging their voice and participation in how to address the harmful impacts of the youth's actions.

Communities also need to have their voices heard as crime victims and be empowered to share in the responsibility for the welfare of its members. Community members need to feel safe and have a critical role in working with the system to establish an environment in which safety emerges.

Learn more about the county's Juvenile Department and our commitment to restorative justice at bit.ly/ClackCoJuvenile

Are You Flood Ready?

We're getting into the time of year when flooding becomes a concern. Flooding poses a threat to life and safety, and can severely damage property.

Clackamas County Disaster Management wants you to be as prepared as possible if the unfortunate should happen. On our flooding preparedness webpage at bit.ly/ClackCoFlooding, you can find a lot of helpful information, including:

- Preparing for flooding
- Sandbag locations (also at bit.ly/ClackCoSandbags)
- Homeowner's Guide to Flooding
- Floodplain management information
- Why you may need flood insurance

Remember, preparedness is not about the disasters. Preparedness is about people. We want you to be ready to preserve your family, your community, and your way of life.

Veterans Service Office is on your side

Our Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) assist veterans and their eligible dependents to obtain various federal VA benefits with a focus on compensation for service-related injuries and non-service connected pensions for wartime veterans or their survivors whose income is being reduced significantly by medical expenses. Trained VSOs provide counseling on federal VA benefits, assistance with claims preparation, and advocacy throughout the appeals process.

Assistance is also provided with enrollment in VA health care, applying for VA Aid and Attendance benefits, eligibility certificates for state and federal VA home loans, and help obtaining death and burial benefits. We provide information and referral to other state and federal benefits and community resources including educational benefits, employment and training.

For more information, call:

Clackamas County Veterans Service Office
503-650-5631

Coordinated Housing Access (homeless housing)
503-655-8575

Clackamas County Homeless Veterans Outreach Specialist:
503-650-5775

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

TRASH TALK

Green cleaners: A healthier and less expensive option

The average American uses 40 pounds of household cleaners each year.

Household cleaners promise us many things like shiny appliances, dust-free furniture and stain-free clothing. Commercials advertise cleaners that promise to protect us from germs and make our homes smell like wildflowers.

Yet, when you read the back label, most cleaners display some level of warning. Even reading the ingredient list won't tell the whole story because producers aren't required to list every ingredient. Some labels only list "active" ingredients. Others may only list "preservatives," "dyes" or "fragrances" instead of individual ingredients.

While occasional exposure to these ingredients may not cause harm, repetitive use can. Some chemicals cause immediate affects, such as headaches or upset stomachs. Others may build up in our body, causing health concerns over time.

You can avoid toxic chemicals by making your own cleaners. Doing so will save you money and you'll know exactly what's in them. Common green cleaning ingredients include baking soda, vinegar, hydrogen peroxide, liquid soap, washing soda and essential oils.

Try out this simple recipe to get started:

Multi-Surface Cleaner (32 fl. oz.)

- 2 cups white distilled vinegar
- 4 tsp liquid soap
- 6 cups warm water
- spray bottle

When you need household cleaners, consider buying ingredients to make your own for less! Find additional cleaning recipes at bit.ly/cleangreener.

Green cleaners improve indoor air quality with basic household ingredients.

Businesses recognized for sustainability

Our Leaders in Sustainability Program recognizes businesses with outstanding sustainable practices. Since 2015, over 30 businesses have been certified, with 20 currently in the certification process. The following organizations have implemented sustainable actions with a positive impact for their workplace, the environment and their bottom line.

For program details and sustainable actions for your business, visit clackamas.us/recycling/lis. To schedule a consultation with a Sustainability Advisor, email lis@clackamas.us or call 503-742-4458.

Lush Cosmetics

"We at Lush Clackamas were very happy to receive our award since we, as a company, are always striving to be more eco-friendly in every corner of our company, and show other cosmetics companies that not only can you be successful as a company, but you can be eco-friendly while doing it." ***— Derrin Guerra, Sales Ambassador***

- **Recycle:** Created an incentive program for customers to bring back empty containers to be recycled into new containers for Lush products
- **Reuse:** Adopted use of reusable towels at demo stations instead of paper towels
- **Green Cleaners:** Adopted use of green cleaners used throughout the store

Marylhurst University

"Being recognized with Clackamas County's Leaders in Sustainability Gold Award means so much. We're thrilled to know our efforts are being noticed because reducing our environmental impact is one of the most important contributions we can make to our community and to our planet."
— Melody Rose, President, Marylhurst University

- **Energy:** Upgraded outdoor lighting to LED bulbs, with estimated savings of 140,534 kWh annually, with incentives from Energy Trust of Oregon,
- **Water and Reuse:** Installed filtered water bottle filling stations across campus to minimize use of bottled water
- **Recycling:** Established a recycling center for hard to recycle items, batteries, bulbs, film plastic, office supplies and more.

Sandy Community Action Center

"We chose to get certified because [we] value sustainability and want to set a good example in the community. Because of the actions we implemented, we have been saving money, are able to serve more people and serve them better."
— Dawn Loomis, Director

- **Community and Food Recovery:** Directed service to rural communities (Welches and Boring), to reach more people in need of healthy free food and avoid multiple long distance trips into Sandy
- **Food Scraps:** Partnered with local farmers to use leftover food that cannot be donated
- **Energy:** Installed a programmable thermostat to regulate energy use and save money

West Linn Paper Company

"The mill is committed to reducing its impact and found the Leaders in Sustainability program a great way to step up our game and make our efforts more visible in the community." ***— Penny Machinski, Environmental Manager***

- **Reuse:** Installed a recovery system on one of the production lines to capture and reuse materials that had previously gone to the waste stream
- **Materials:** Offers sustainable products for customers such as recycled-content and forestry-certified paper
- **Green Cleaners:** Collaborated with janitorial service to specify use of green cleaners

Pictured above in story order: Lush Cosmetics' Sydney Carlson; Waste station at Marylhurst University campus; Sandy Community Action Center Volunteer Peter Hoffman; West Linn Paper Company's Mike Heckman.

Schools: Grant money available

Schools in Clackamas County may apply for grants of up to $500 to fund recycling or waste reduction projects. In the past, schools have purchased worm bins, washable flatware for school lunches, compost tumblers, reusable water bottles and green classroom party kits. **Find the application online at clackamas.us/recycling. Apply by June 2017.**

Classroom party kits use durable products to reduce disposable items.

Grant idea: Green your classroom parties
Classroom parties generate a lot of waste! Just imagine garbage cans full of disposable cups, plates, bowls and flatware for a classroom with 30 students. Now imagine that every classroom had a party that day. Schools see their classroom garbage double or even triple on party days.

Some schools are using Green Classroom Party Kits to reduce their classroom party waste. A classroom party kit costs approximately $55, can be used over and over again, and eliminates most of the waste associated with classroom parties. The classroom party kit above is used by a teacher at Spring Mountain Elementary in Happy Valley.

For your school's recycling, composting or waste reduction program, the county offers:

- Classroom presentations
- Recycling bins
- Recycling education for staff and students
- Green team guidance
- Assistance with Oregon Green School certification

Help reduce your school's environmental impact. Contact Laurel Bates, Waste Reduction Education Coordinator (lbates@clackamas.us, 503-742-4454).

Flammable, caustic, explosive, OH MY!

Safely dispose of toxic products at a hazardous waste facility.

Are you gearing up to dispose of pesticides, paints, motor oil, chlorine or bleach cleaners, batteries or other toxic household items? Most of our homes contain some of these hazardous materials.

The improper disposal of these chemicals in the garbage can result in fires, explosions or the release of toxins into the air, soil and groundwater. For the same reasons, it is important not to dispose of your household hazardous materials in the sink or toilet, on the ground or down a storm drain.

When you are ready to responsibly dispose of these materials, take them to the Metro South Transfer Station in Oregon City, or to another facility or local event that collects household hazardous waste in your community. Nominal fees may apply. For details, visit oregonmetro.gov/hazardouswaste.

Metro South Transfer Station
2001 Washington St., Oregon City, OR 97045
503-234-3000
Open every day from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Reduce toxicity at home
Use these tips to minimize hazardous waste in your home:

1. Use safer alternatives
2. Read labels before you buy for both warnings and disposal/use instructions
3. Buy only what you need

Reserve your free 2017 disposal coupon!

Toxic products aren't just dangerous in your yard, but in the trash and down the drain too. You should safely dispose of these products at a hazardous waste facility. To learn more and to request a mailed coupon, call 503-742-4463.

Don't despair, repair!

Repair Fair volunteers fix items such as clothing, small appliances and bikes.

Buy. Use. Break. Toss. Repeat.

This cycle of consumption is now normal in our culture. When something breaks, we replace it. After all, many items cost more to repair than to replace. In addition, fewer people know the basic skills our grandparents knew for repair. For example, 7 out of 10 young adults don't know how to sew on a button. At one time, we could rely on previous generations or school classes to learn these skills. However, there are other ways of learning how to fix and reuse things to extend their useful life.

Repairers unite!
Many people are taking it upon themselves to ditch the throwaway culture, learn skills and meet friends while organizing repair events. These events provide a space to meet your neighbors and fix or mend things together.

Visitors bring an item such as pants that need hemming, a broken coffee maker or a bike in bad shape. They meet with the repair volunteers and together they work to fix the item. Most of all, these events can show you how much fun it can be to repair. Consider giving it a try!

Upcoming repair events:

West Linn Repair Fair
Feb. 25, 2017; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Robinwood Station
3706 Cedar Oak Drive, West Linn

Milwaukie Repair Fair
March 18, 2017; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Wichita Center for Family and Community
6031 SE King Road, Milwaukie

Please bring just one item to an event. Volunteers will do their best to fix items, but do not guarantee a complete repair. Consider donating to the program if you are able to keep events like this going.

Items typically accepted for repair include:

- Garments and textiles
- Bikes
- Small appliances

And don't forget, you can also support local repair businesses by taking items like appliances, computers, phones and shoes to repair shops instead of buying new.

Become a MASTER RECYCLER

Learn from the experts. Connect with others. Make a difference.

Registration is now open for the Clackamas County course starting March 29, 2017. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at noon. Earn Master Recycler Certification by attending the course and volunteering 30 hours.

Details and application at **masterrecycler.org**

Recycle your electronics
oregon E-CYCLES
oregonecycles.org
1-888-532-9253

APRIL 1, 2017
OREGON Bottle Bill
10¢ DEPOSIT

Effective April 1, 2017, the Bottle Bill deposit and refund value will increase to 10¢ per container. Containers redeemed before April 1 will be refunded at 5¢ per container.

Details on new Bottle Drop locations and getting your money back are at bottledropcenters.com.

About Trash Talk
Trash Talk pages are provided by Clackamas County's Resource Conservation & Solid Waste Program, on behalf of the Clackamas County Recycling Partnership: a cooperative of Clackamas County, the cities of Barlow, Canby, Estacada, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Molalla, Oregon City, Sandy, West Linn and Wilsonville, and local garbage and recycling companies.

Contact
Clackamas County Resource Conservation & Solid Waste
503-557-6363 | wasteinfo@clackamas.us | clackamas.us/recycling

Drive safe in the winter!

Clackamas County Drive to Zero encourages you to go the extra mile to be safe while driving this winter. Details on the tips below are available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) at bit.ly/2gyA9QM.

BEFORE YOU GO ON A TRIP

- **Get your car serviced**
- **Check for recalls**. Search at https://vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin/.
- **Know your car.** Clean snow, ice and dirt from windows, sensors and lights; practice winter weather driving skills in an empty parking lot.
- **Make sure all part of your vehicle are working properly:** Be sure to check your battery, lights, cooling system, windshield wipers and defrosters, windshield washer reservoir, tires, and floor mats.

SAFETY FIRST

- **Protect yourself and your passengers.** Always wear your seatbelt and ensure that everyone else in your vehicle is buckled-up in age and size-appropriate restraints.
- **On the road:** Stay alert; avoid risky driving behaviors like texting, driving too fast for conditions, driving while drunk or high; don't crowd or travel next to a snow plow.

Code Enforcement, community work together to protect public safety and health

To keep properties safe, protect health, and maintain property values, the county prohibits the accumulation of household waste, certain other types of debris, and inoperable vehicles on private property. Code Enforcement staff respond to and address such issues when a complaint is filed. The photos below show the positive impact the Code Enforcement team can have, working with the community and private property owners.

You can get more information or file a complaint online at clackamas.us/codeenforcement/, by calling 503-742-4452 or emailing codeenforcement@clackamas.us.

Before: A rural property with accumulated solid waste.

After: The same property after Code Enforcement worked with the owner.

$5,600 RAISED FOR CANCER

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office employees once again participated in the nationwide "No Shave November" campaign, which seeks to raise cancer awareness, and raise money to fight the disease. Sheriff Craig Roberts temporarily changed facial-hair rules so deputies could grow beards during the month of November and participate. The Sheriff's Office raised over $5,600 for the American Cancer Society at **no-shave.org/team/CCSO**.

A bumpy road ahead

In November, county voters turned down a ballot measure for a proposed 6-cent-per-gallon fuel tax. The 7-year countywide tax would have paid for the maintenance of 115 miles of county roads and improved safety, as well as funded transportation projects in cities.

While safety continues to be our top priority as we manage the county's 1,400-mile road system, with the knowledge that limited funding will continue, our Transportation Maintenance Division is revising and refining maintenance plans for 2017.

We will focus on relatively low-cost but high impact activities such as maintaining shoulders, brushing, ditching, and other actions that help maintain a safe roadway with good sight distance – rather than resurfacing roadways. In the long term, staff will also review the prioritization of maintenance projects in light of decreasing resources.

Clackamas County Commissioners are scheduled to meet in January to discuss the ramifications of the failed ballot measure, and options for raising the funds needed to maintain our valuable road system. Updates will be available at TheRoadAhead.us.

Road workers will continue trimming brush and trees on the side of county roadways to help keep roads safe.

Don't get caught harboring a fugitive. License your dog.

It's the law to license your dog in Clackamas County.

Dog licensing also promotes responsible dog ownership, helps prevent spread of disease by ensuring up-to-date vaccinations, and supports investigations of animal cruelty, abandonment and neglect.

Buy or renew licenses online at **clackamas.us/dogs**, at many Clackamas County vet clinics, or at the shelter (13414 SE Highway 212, Clackamas, OR 97015).

	Altered dog	Fertile dog
1 year*	$24	$41

*Discounts offered for multi-year licenses.

Meet CMap, our newly-improved mapping application

Clackamas County has released a new version of its widely used mapping application, CMap.

It is a free online application that makes it easy to find information about properties, communities and civic life. The application also contains historic survey documents from county archives.

Using a property address, a simple search shows the following property information:

- **Building characteristics:** Square footage, bedrooms, bathrooms, year built and last sale
- **Tax information:** Building value, land value and assessed value
- **Jurisdiction:** City, urban growth, and zoning boundaries
- **Voting:** State House and Senate districts, voting precincts and congressional districts
- **Services:** Cable, garbage, fire, parks, school, sewer and water
- **Hazards:** Risk posed by flood, earthquake and wildfire

Visit CMap today at **bit.ly/ClackCoCMap**.

Safer, expanded travel options continue with opening of Tolbert Bridge

The new Tolbert Street Bridge opened to great fanfare in November, with local, regional and state officials cutting the ribbon, and a mini-parade led by the Clackamas High School Drumline and a World War I Liberty Truck from the Oregon Military Museum.

The new bridge replaces the former at-grade railroad crossing at Lawnfield Road, making travel safer for vehicles and pedestrians.

This project is one of a series of improvements to help complete a network of safe and efficient travel options for trucks, cars, bicycles and pedestrians in the Clackamas Industrial Area. The Sunrise Expressway – from the Milwaukie Expressway at I-205 to SE 122nd Avenue at Highway 212/224 – opened in July. Other recent improvements include:

- Connecting Highway 212/224 to SE Lawnfield Road by way of 102nd Avenue, Clackamas Road and Minuteman Way
- Improving 98th Court, Lawnfield Road and the 97th Avenue intersection
- Extending SE Industrial Way from Mather Road to Lawnfield Road along the east side of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

These projects are part of the Sunrise Jobs and Transportation Act family of projects approved by the Oregon Legislature in 2009 to reduce congestion and enhance economic opportunities in Clackamas County.

Oregon Military Museum volunteers Mark Stevens, William "Kirby" Gerros, Joel Kinney, and Phil Richart joined the celebration, with a World War I Liberty Truck.

A World War I Liberty Truck and the Clackamas High School Drumline lead visitors in a mini-parade across the new bridge, to the entrance of Camp Withycombe.

VOLUNTEER OPENING: COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

Interested in advising Clackamas County Commissioners and county staff on the development and coordination of public involvement programs that promote and enhance community involvement? We're looking for individuals with experience in a community planning organization, hamlet or village to join our Committee for Citizen Involvement. The application deadline is Jan. 31, and more information is at **bit.ly/ClackCoABCs**.

Local students collect and examine aquatic macroinvertebrates (water bugs) to determine stream health.

Watershed education program provides unique learning experiences

The Watershed Health Education Program, developed and managed by Water Environment Services (WES), provides highly-significant educational opportunities through its broad range of activities for participants of all ages.

Its goal is to engage the community in watershed health sciences and stewardship learning that inspires behavioral change. Getting people outside and into their local waterways where they can connect with soil, streams, vegetation and wildlife is key. The program reaches out to the entire community by working with a broad base of partners including schools, nonprofit organizations and other government agencies to provide varied and sometimes rare experiences.

"Our partnerships with nonprofit organizations, schools, and other municipal agencies help broaden our outreach and enrich our education efforts," said WES Surface Water Manager Ron Wierenga.

Program activities range from community water festivals and watershed-wide tree-planting events to science pub talks and in-stream experiments.

Beginning this academic year, educators from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership began working with WES to provide local elementary students with watershed classroom lessons and educational field trips. Young students will soon begin to restore stream habitat, test water quality, and paddle in canoes.

"The field trips provide students with the unique experience of learning through doing," said Jennie Klein, Estuary Partnership Education Programs Manager. "Outdoor experiences not only increase student understanding of watershed health but build important connections to our watershed that get students excited about learning and increases their real-world problem solving skills."

In addition to teachers and students, the general public is invited to sites throughout the Clackamas River watershed to participate in activities and celebratory events that raise awareness of how collectively the community can improve wildlife habitat and water quality. WES and the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership share the belief that partnerships are critical to successful watershed education and service learning.

"Getting students science education and in an outdoor setting is the most important work we do," said Debrah Marriott, Estuary Partnership Executive Director. "No single organization can accomplish watershed education on its own. Partnerships are necessary to maximize expertise and resources, to involve landowners, to accomplish broader goals, and to engage diverse communities."

Visit clackamas.us/wes to learn more about the program.

COMMISSIONERS APPROVE WES INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE PLAN

Clackamas County Commissioners approved Water Environment Services' (WES) plan to equitably split the cost of a solids handling capacity improvement project between two rate zones formerly known as the Tri-City Service District (TCSD) and Clackamas County Service District No. 1 (CCSD#1). The action will keep rates low for customers.

The project will build additional capacity for the county's wastewater facilities to handle and treat solids (a byproduct of sewage). Cleaned wastewater is released into the Willamette River.

The additional capacity will serve the needs of more than 165,000 customers. The need for additional capacity was caused by a doubling of the customer population over the last 30 years. Currently, facility equipment is being overwhelmed and must operate 24/7 with no backup.

The rate zones were created with the formation of the Water Environment Services Partnership (see page 1). Rate Zone 1 is equal to the boundaries of TCSD while Rate Zone 2 represents the boundaries of CCSD#1.

WES' plan has Rate Zone 2 funding 64 percent of the project while Rate Zone 1 funds 36 percent. The apportioned costs are based on population growth forecasts and the demands of each rate zone. Ratepayers can expect to see approximately $1.00 added to their monthly bills.

WES staff took steps to significantly reduce the project's cost by assessing current equipment and by using a phased approach to construction. Overall, WES staff reduced the cost of the project from approximately $56 million to $37.5 million.

Project construction begins next year and is expected to be completed in 2020. During construction, existing equipment at the facility will also be upgraded to support the additional capacity and increase overall efficiency.

Public works employees and representatives from cities and communities in both rate zones took part in an exhaustive technology selection process, which was collaborative, transparent and inclusive. The Regional Wastewater Treatment Capacity Advisory Committee, comprised of elected officials and representatives from affected cities and communities, has explored co-investment strategies and made other recommendations to the county commissioners since it was reconvened in 2015.

To learn more about WES and the solids handling capacity improvement project, visit clackamas.us/wes/.

Partnership, from page 1

"This agreement propels our region forward in a long-term partnership that will protect public health, the environment and the economic vitality of our region for decades to come," said WES Director Greg Geist.

The partnership reflects the trend of consolidation and cooperation in the wastewater treatment industry. The long-range certainty created by the partnership allows for coordinated regional capital planning, regulatory efficiencies, improved operations, and redirects the focus of staff and stakeholders to better address existing and future challenges.

WES has reached out to residents and businesses to share information about the benefits of a regional approach to solving capacity issues through a series of presentations to community and neighborhood associations, rotary clubs, chambers of commerce, business alliances, city councils, and environmental groups.

Prior to the commissioners' vote, residents and members of Clackamas County's business community encouraged them to support the formation of the partnership to ensure that the county's wastewater treatment system will be able to support future economic growth.

Karin Power, speaking in her former position as Milwaukie City Councilor, also provided testimony: "I ask you to rise above politics and make the financially-prudent, environmentally-responsible decision today so that whether you are a homeowner, renter, or business owner … you can continue to rely every day on our shared infrastructure when you or your business needs it."

Les de Asis, founder and owner of Benchmade Knife Company, said, "It makes sense to consolidate, to spread out the cost, and make sure the system will suit the population going forward."

Ernie Platt, a resident of unincorporated Clackamas County, told the commissioners that he is deeply concerned about the possibility of a state-imposed building moratorium that could happen without additional solids handling capacity. "The economic viability of this county is intertwined with this concern, absolutely and unequivocally. The mere mention that that occurrence is on our horizon is an economic detriment to this county, right now."

To learn more about WES, visit clackamas.us/wes/.

ECOBIZ Oregon green business search

auto repair • body & paint • landscapers • car washes

www.ecobiz.org

Water Environment Services

Photos L-R: Dick's Hillsboro Honda, 3C Automotive, Atomic Auto

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND SOLIDS HANDLING

A version of the following letter appeared in Pamplin newspapers.

As a Happy Valley resident and President of Miles Fiberglass and Composites I want to thank Clackamas County Commissioners for their bold decision to formalize the Regional Partnership between the wastewater treatment and solids handling districts of Tri-City and CCSD1.

My family currently has two manufacturing facilities in Clackamas County. One is located in Oregon City and the other is located in North Clackamas. It's hard to imagine, but we currently have three generations working for our company.

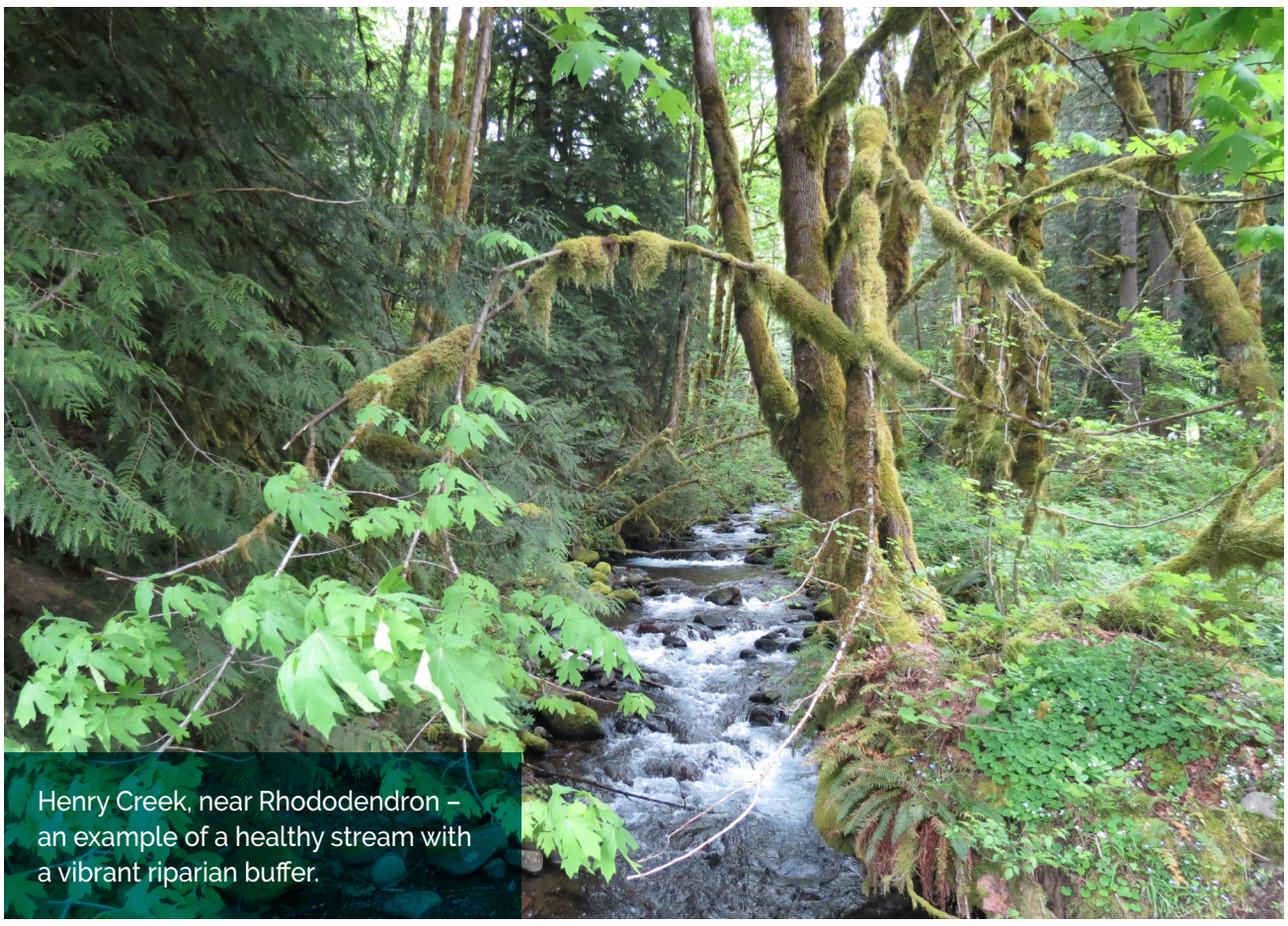
Like many local manufacturers, Clackamas is both home to our family and our business. Our corporate plans currently include co-locating both facilities into a new state of the art manufacturing facility. In order for us to stay in Clackamas County we need certain ingredients to be in place: we need a supportive business climate, a good workforce and a strong infrastructure system.

As a resident and business owner I am very concerned with the issues facing our wastewater treatment and solids handling facilities. Businesses are not going to invest in land and future development if this issue is not resolved. No one can afford to invest in a future that faces hurdles created by moratoriums or political infighting.

Businesses and ratepayers will win with a strong regional partnership. It's a lean and efficient model that's worked effectively for 30 years and I encourage the Board to stay the course. Collaboration and co-investment is the future. As business leaders we see this happening with public safety, fire prevention, water and wastewater. We applaud and encourage collaboration and efficiencies. The time to act is now, as the economy rebounds. Clackamas County cannot afford to be viewed as "closing down."

The project as proposed by Water and Environment Services keeps costs low for ratepayers, saves millions of dollars, protects the health of the community, prevents a state-imposed moratorium and keeps the economy moving. I applaud the Board's decision to move this project forward.

Lori Miles-Olund
President, Miles Fiberglass and Composites



Henry Creek, near Rhododendron – an example of a healthy stream with a vibrant riparian buffer.

Good stewardship of our waterways is good stewardship of our community

The numerous rivers, streams and creeks that flow throughout our beautiful county are a big part of what makes this such a great place to live, work and play. Our rivers and streams supply our drinking water, irrigate our crops, support fish and other aquatic species, and provide countless recreational and commercial opportunities.

Our major rivers include the Willamette, Clackamas, Tualatin, Sandy, Pudding, Molalla and Salmon. They are generally made up of smaller tributary streams, most of which flow through the backyards of county residents. Because of this, it is important to learn how our activities can significantly impact water quality and how to be good stewards to our streams.

Areas directly next to our streams are known as riparian buffers – vegetated areas that help shade and protect waterways from the impact of adjacent land uses. These buffers play an important role in determining the quality of the water in our streams by removing sediment and other pollution from farm fields, residential lawns and roadways.

Reducing riparian buffers can have serious consequences:

- Poor water quality – such as higher temperatures, lower dissolved oxygen and higher sedimentation – that can reduce habitat and fish populations
- Property damage and the loss of valuable agricultural lands from bank erosion
- Reduced water storage capacity because the soils are exposed to drying by wind and sunlight

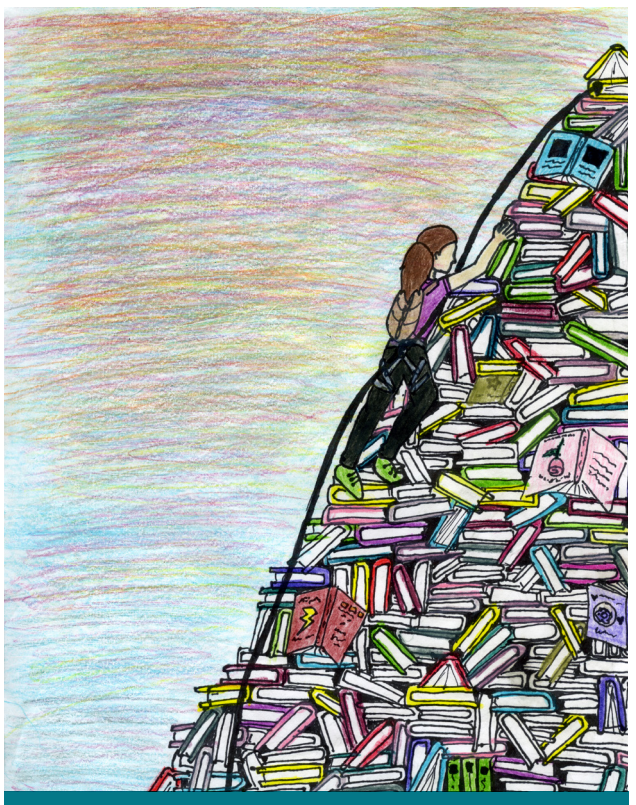
If you have a stream on your property, you can help create and maintain a healthy riparian buffer:

- First, find out the size of your stream's buffer and what work is allowed within the buffer by contacting your city or county planning department. County Planning & Zoning can be reached at 503-742-4500 or zoninginfo@clackamas.us. Most streams have regulated buffers of 50 to 200 feet. Development in the buffers is generally prohibited, but work done by hand (planting, removing noxious weeds and trash, minor pruning) and light maintenance is encouraged.
- Within the buffer, plant a mix of native plants and trees. To attract a variety of wildlife, plant evergreen and deciduous trees, and different seed-bearing, fruit-bearing, and nectar-producing shrubs and flowers.
- If you need technical or planning assistance, contact your local watershed council (see list below) or the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District.

If you do not have a stream or creek that flows through your property but want to help improve water quality in your community, consider getting involved with an organization that works on water quality issues, starting with your watershed council – a locally-organized, voluntary, non-regulatory group established to improve the conditions of the watershed in your area.

RESOURCES/CONTACTS

- Clackamas County Planning & Zoning Division – clackamas.us/planning/
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District – conservationdistrict.org/
- Water Environment Services – clackamas.us/wes/
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (watershed councils) – http://bit.ly/2g1yIdy



The winning image of last year's contest, themed "Wellness, Fitness and Sports," created by 14-year-old Katie Sherman of Damascus.

Libraries' Teen Art Contest!

The Libraries in Clackamas County invite all interested teens to submit original artwork for their second annual Teen Summer Reading Artwork contest. This year's theme is **Build a Better World**.

Submissions are welcome until Feb. 12. Artists must be between the ages of 12 and 18 at the time of submission, and artwork must represent the theme. Entries should be in color with no text.

The winning design will be used throughout the county for all summer reading promotional materials such as posters, forms, fliers and social media. A $100 cash gift card will be awarded for first place, and honorable mentions may also be recognized.

For more information, contest rules and an entry form, visit lincc.org. You can also obtain an entry form by visiting any of the 13 libraries in the county.

Hamlet/Villages update

The Hamlet and Village Program started in response to grassroots efforts by residents to become more involved with county government to help support their communities. While each hamlet or village has unique goals and activities, they share a common interest in retaining the personality of their community, promoting activities to benefit the community, and working with the county and outside organizations. This unique, innovative program began in 2006.

In December, the Board of County Commissioners voted to dissolve the Hamlet of Molalla Prairie and the Villages of Mt. Hood. Clackamas County is committed to working with the villages community – and all hamlets and community planning organizations – to ensure thoughtful engagement and outreach in the future.

Neighborhood Livability Project successfully tackling problem houses

Problem houses can turn neighborhoods into nightmares. But the **Neighborhood Livability Project** can help.

The project was conceived in 2015, when several county agencies began working on a problem house near Milwaukie that was under foreclosure. Squatters had taken up residence inside – turning it into a flophouse attracting problems that can include drugs, trash, animals, criminal behavior, property crime, and vagrancy.

Cleaning up a house like this requires months of coordinated effort from agencies and citizens. Clackamas County Sheriff Deputies Karen Moss and Mark Nikolai saw similar problems developing elsewhere in the county. So they took action.

Moss coordinated with the county's District Attorney's Office and Code Enforcement Division. They enlisted Deputy Joel Manley – whose previous success with community policing had lasting, positive effects. Moss then started a workgroup to identify 20 problem houses in the county.

The group focused on seven houses already under investigation, and each property was assigned a lead investigating deputy who coordinated intelligence, identified key players, enlisted neighbors, formulated a plan, and coordinated law enforcement, human services and neighborhood response.

This coordinated approach, the Neighborhood Livability Project, allows deputies, agencies, county attorneys, and neighbors to work together to clean up neighborhoods far more efficiently than before.

And problem houses are now resolved – boarded up, referred to landlords for cleaning and re-rental, or in some cases condemned – at a rate of several per month, instead of a few per year.

If you have a problem house in your neighborhood – creating excessive solid waste, criminal-type behavior and/or other issues that could fall under the Clackamas County Nuisance Ordinance (bit.ly/ClackCoNuisance, page 29) – the Sheriff's Office would like to hear from you. Residents can call CCSO at 503-785-5000, the county's Code Enforcement Division at 503-742-4452, or their local law or code enforcement agencies.

Watch a video about the Neighborhood Livability Project on the Sheriff's Office YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/ClackamasSheriff.

'Shop with a Cop' brings gifts to kids

The Clackamas County Peace Officers' Benevolent Foundation cohosted its 10th annual Shop with a Cop event last month at the Clackamas Wal-Mart.

The program involves local law-enforcement officers identifying children whose low-income families have had some enforcement contact with police, presenting those children with $100 gift cards, and then shopping with them. Wal-Mart wraps all the gifts for the kids, supplying the gift wrap, ribbons and tags.

It's a tremendous opportunity for police and kids to get to know one another – concerns that kids may have about police can change for the better.

This year, 136 children from the county were at the event, paired with law-enforcement personnel from the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, Oregon State Police, Clackamas County Community Corrections, and the Molalla, Canby, West Linn, Milwaukie, Sandy, and Lake Oswego police departments.

Shop with a Cop spent a total of $14,155.42 on the kids on Saturday. (Deputies, officers, and troopers did reached into their own pockets – to the tune of $555.42 – to cover kids who accidentally spent too much during their shopping sprees.)

Kids were selected by school officials and came from Canby, Colton, Estacada, Gladstone, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Molalla, Oregon City, Sandy, West Linn, Wilsonville, and the North Clackamas School District.

To learn more about Shop with a Cop, or to donate to the event, visit ccpobf.org.

Tourism grants

The Clackamas County Tourism Development Council (TDC) has announced its Tourism Development Grant award recipients for fiscal year 2016-17. A total of $250,000 in grant funding was available, derived from the county's 6 percent Transient Room Tax. Grants include:

- Genealogy Research Lab, Clackamas County Historical Society ($20k)
- Willamette Falls Heritage Area Market Research, Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition ($60k)
- Sandy Ridge Trailhead Access Improvements, Bureau of Land Management ($80k)
- Canby Bike Hub, Canby Livability Coalition ($12k)
- Bike Friendly Amenities for Willamette Street in West Linn, Historic Willamette Main Street ($5k)
- River Tourism at Willamette Falls, We Love Clean Rivers ($40k)
- Clackamas Cultural Plan, Clackamas County Cultural Coalition ($20k)
- Rodeo Walk of Fame, Molalla Area Chamber of Commerce ($12k)

The TDC oversees the county's tourism program, branded as Oregon's Mt. Hood Territory. Visit MtHoodTerritory.com today for more information.

Community Partnership Grants! A second tourism grant opportunity is currently available. Qualifying projects should have the ability to generate paid overnight stays at lodging properties or draw visitors to local communities from more than 50 miles away to "linger longer" and enjoy what the community has to offer. Applications accepted through Feb. 13, visit bit.ly/ClackCoTourismGrants for more information and application instructions.