



Widening and seismic improvements planned for I-205 from Stafford Road to Hwy. 213

In February 2020, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is expected to complete a design to add a third lane in each direction of I-205 between Stafford Road and Hwy. 213 and to make seismic improvements to the Abernethy Bridge.



The Oregon Legislature is considering funding options to pay for this \$450 million project. I-205 is a major thoroughway in Clackamas County and throughout the Portland metropolitan region.

If you drive on it regularly or know someone who does, you know that this heavily-used interstate is increasingly congested. This is a problem for people commuting to and from work, for travelers just passing through and for area and regional businesses whose freight takes longer to get from place to place.

Clackamas County strongly supports this effort and is encouraging state legislators to provide necessary funding this year so the project can remain on schedule.

More information about the project is available on ODOT’s project website at www.i205corridor.org. We also encourage you to contact your local legislators to invite them to take action on additional funding needed for this important project.

You can find out who your legislators are at: www.bit.ly/OregonLegislators



County seeks support for new courthouse

In late November, Clackamas County hosted local legislators for a tour of the County Courthouse in Oregon City. The tour highlighted the many reasons the courthouse needs to be replaced. From left: County Commission Chair Jim Bernard, Sen. Shemia Fagan, Rep. Anna Williams, Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge Ann Lininger, Rep. Mark Meek, Rep. Andrea Salinas, Sen. Kathleen Taylor, Rep. Karin Power, Rep. Janelle Bynum, Clackamas County Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Rep. Rachel Prusak and Clackamas County Circuit Court Judge Kathie Steele.

When the Clackamas County Courthouse was built in 1937, life was drastically different than what we experience today.

The county had just 40,000 residents – one-tenth of its population today. For residents, the courthouse served as the workplace for a single circuit court judge and nearly every county office.

Now that the county is home to nearly 420,000 people more than 80 years later, the courthouse simply can’t handle all of the courthouse staff while also fulfilling the mission to provide fair and accessible justice services to the public.

In fact, the limited number of courtrooms available to meet demand for a growing number of county cases is a fraction of what it should be. Because of this, court cases – such as those involving divorce, custody and even criminal case issues -- see longer and longer delays. Additionally, lack of office space makes lengthy wait times for residents to receive requested records or other legal materials even longer.

These issues highlight why the county is pursuing building a new courthouse.

“The county courthouse provides critical services to all its residents,” said Sonya Fischer, Clackamas County Commissioner. “The long delays, structural deficiencies and inadequate wait times all contribute to the need for a new building.”

While the building itself can’t function efficiently or properly to carry out day-to-day activities, it also has a significant issue – it hasn’t been retrofitted to withstand a major earthquake, which experts predict may occur in the next few decades. This endangers those both in and around the courthouse, both staff and visitors.

While the state is responsible for funding court operations, Oregon’s counties are responsible for building and maintaining courthouses.

Fortunately, the Oregon Legislature has established a fund to match 50 percent of the cost of courthouse replacement projects. If approved for funding, construction of a new Clackamas County courthouse would be a partnership between the state and Clackamas County.

The county has developed a broad public outreach

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CLACKAMAS MENTAL HEALTH CENTER GETS A MAKEOVER



E-CIGARETTES USE AMONG TEENS ON THE RISE



EARLY SIGNS OF SUCCESS AT VETERANS VILLAGE

Fischer, Savas, Hall, Little and Nava sworn in at January event

Last month, five elected Clackamas County officials were sworn in to start their new four-year terms. Each one either prevailed in the general election last November or won outright in the primary last May (by capturing more than 50 percent of the votes).

Justice of the Peace Karen Brisbin swore all five into office.

“We have to deal with growth; we need to look at our housing and our homelessness crisis,” said Commissioner Sonya Fischer, who was elected to her first four-year term after being appointed two years ago. “And we are doing that — and do you know why and how we’re doing it? By connecting with the people of Clackamas County, hearing their voices and developing a comprehensive strategy.”

“I believe all divisions of the Clerk’s Office should be accurate, efficient, courteous, convenient and people-friendly,” said County Clerk Sherry Hall, who was elected to her fifth term. “Election security is a top priority, because voters must be assured that their ballots are safe, and confident that their vote counts.”

“Clackamas County is a great place to live, and it’s also a great place to work,” said Assessor Tami Little, who was elected to her first full term. “I will continue the practice in our office of working to establish trust and credibility, so citizens have confidence in their property tax system.”

“I look forward to serving the people of Clackamas County with dignity, integrity and excellence,” said Treasurer Brian Nava, who started his first term. “I will continue the foundation that [former Treasurer] Shari Anderson has laid in ensuring prudent investing, great cash controls,



From left to right: Assessor Tami Little, Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Commissioner Paul Savas, Clerk Sherry Hall and Treasurer Brian Nava were sworn in as Clackamas County elected officials in January.

transparency, accountability, working to increase electronic payments, and creating a plan to increase the internal audit staff.”

“It is my belief that we are elected to office to research, validate, oversee and verify that public dollars are spent wisely,” said Commissioner Paul Savas, who is starting his third term. “We must do that in a way that responsibly manages the business of the county.”

The event was broadcast live on the Clackamas County Government Channel, and is online at www.bit.ly/ClackCo2019SwearingIn.

Clackamas County has 11 elected positions. In addition to the five listed above, the others are three additional commissioners (including the Chair), District Attorney, Justice of the Peace and Sheriff. All of those positions are up for election in 2020.

County honors 175th anniversary, buries time capsule to be opened in 2068

Clackamas County Commissioners buried a 50-year time capsule Dec. 4 on the grounds of the county headquarters in Oregon City. The action was taken in celebration of the county’s 175th anniversary.

Items in the time capsule – to be opened in 2068 – were selected for their uniqueness in representing the county, their symbolism of the county’s strategic goals (www.clackamas.us/performance), and their overall anticipated level of interest for future residents. One final item was chosen by county residents through a social media poll.

Capsule items include:

- Commemorative wooden beaver coin: Selected in collaboration with local heritage

- organizations, this coin is a reproduction of those minted in 1849 in Oregon City.
- Christmas tree ornament: Clackamas County produces the most Christmas trees in Oregon, and the second-most in the entire country. An ornament was included to signify this impressive production, and the item showcases sites in Oregon City including Willamette Falls. (*Performance Clackamas goal: Grow a vibrant economy*)
- #ClackCo Quarterly: Clackamas County’s hard-copy newsletter will detail some of the services it offers at this moment in time to our residents.
- Comic book: Voted on by county residents via



- social media to be the last item included, this comic book was produced by county-based Dark Horse Comics, a nationally-recognized company.
- Drain marker: This curb/street sticker reminds people not to dump chemicals or other harmful materials. (*Performance Clackamas goal: Build a strong infrastructure*)
- Fishing flies: Symbolizing the passion that county residents have for local rivers, five fishing flies were made by a county resident. (*Performance Clackamas goal: Honor, utilize, promote and invest in our natural resources*)
- County legislative agenda: The 2018 state legislative agenda will provide a sense of the major issues that Clackamas County faces today. (*Performance Clackamas goal: Build public trust through good government*)
- Llama soap: Clackamas County has the third-most llamas in the country. This unusual soap is felted with llama fur, and highlights an interesting quirk about the county.

#ClackCo
QUARTERLY

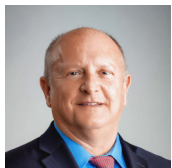


#ClackCo Quarterly is produced four times a year by the Public and Government Affairs Department (PGA). It is mailed to nearly every household in the county.

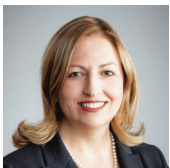
Contact us about stories at ClackCoQuarterly@clackamas.us.

Contact your commissioners at bcc@clackamas.us or 503-655-8581.

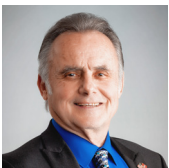
Board of County Commissioners



Commission Chair
Jim Bernard



Commissioner
Sonya Fischer



Commissioner
Ken Humberston



Commissioner
Paul Savas



Commissioner
Martha Schrader



Schrader elected president of Association of Oregon Counties

In November, Clackamas County Commissioner Martha Schrader was elected President of the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC).

An important statewide organization, AOC connects Oregon’s counties by bringing leaders together to build and share solutions to problems through advocacy, research and leadership development.

As president, Schrader is now uniquely situated to monitor any opportunities or concerns throughout the state that could affect Clackamas County. This ensures that Clackamas County is ready to take advantage of beneficial situations or quickly respond to any issues that may emerge.

In her acceptance speech, Schrader talked about how her background – owning and operating a farm, serving as an urban county representative – provides her with a distinct ability to represent and advocate for the diverse needs across counties.

Schrader also outlined her initiative for her presidential term: Helping counties pursue affordable housing capacity for all Oregon communities.

Congratulations to Commissioner Schrader on this great honor!

GET INVOLVED!

Clackamas County is committed to engaging residents in the public process. There are many ways for you to get involved. Sign up for email updates at www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html. The form allows you to select topics of interest to you.

The county has many opportunities for community members to become involved in specific issues, activities and goals of county programs. For a full list of advisory board and commission openings, visit www.bit.ly/ClackCoInv.

#ClackCo Commissioners Corner: What's your 2019 priority?



Commission Chair
Jim Bernard

Enacting a Vehicle Registration Fee

Clackamas County is the only county in the Portland metropolitan area that does not have a local source of funds to maintain its roads. We need to make road improvements that relieve congestion and also make our road system safer.

That is why the county is considering a vehicle registration fee, and why my goal is to explain the value of such a funding source to our residents. Revenue from this fee would be distributed equitably to the county and our cities based on population, benefiting residents in both rural and urban areas. A \$30 per year fee would go a long way towards ensuring our more than 1,400 miles of roads are adequately maintained. More info: bit.ly/VRFClackCo.



Commissioner
Sonya Fischer

Tackling Homelessness

Clackamas County, like much of Oregon, is experiencing a homeless crisis. In our last homeless count, more than one-half of our nearly 2,300 homeless population were children under 18. The federal office of Housing and Urban Development recently released its annual Homeless Assessment to Congress, and Oregon has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the nation. In 2019, I want to work with partners to address this staggering problem and offer real solutions. We are making a difference in the lives of homeless families by working with community partners. In 2018, hundreds of homeless families and individuals were provided housing and services but the need is great and we need to do more.

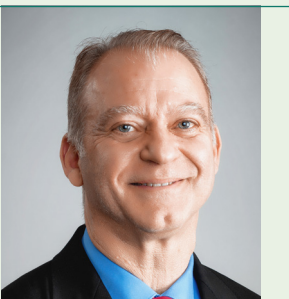
The Board of County Commissioners is looking forward to recommendations from our resident-led Housing Affordability and Homelessness Task Force regarding policies for addressing homelessness, zoning and public incentives for affordable housing development. The county’s Health, Housing and Human Services Department will emphasize wrap-around services for homeless families, creating stability critical to children’s growth. We will also develop a strategy to use revenue from the Metro Housing Bond to increase our inventory of affordable housing in the county. With these and other resources, we are well-positioned in 2019 to make progress toward reducing homelessness. More info: bit.ly/2018AHAR.



Commissioner
Ken Humberston

International Trade Strategy

Raising people out of poverty means making certain there are living wage job opportunities for them. One of my priorities for 2019 is to do everything possible to spur local economic growth, particularly through international trade. Clackamas County produces goods that are in demand all over the world. We want to encourage other countries to bring their business and trade here. Two years ago, Clackamas County entered into a sister-county relationship with Guanyun County in China. This partnership was developed to build a better working relationship and explore mutually-beneficial trade opportunities. We’re continually improving and building on this agreement, and our Economic Development Division is working to create similar relationships with other countries, which will enhance Clackamas County’s economic vitality. More info: clackamas.us/business.



Commissioner
Paul Savas

Housing our Homeless Veterans

I want to see all the veterans who have entered the Veterans Village transitional housing program secure permanent housing. In just the first 60 days of our village being open, we’ve seen veterans transition into permanent housing, secure employment, establish needed primary care, and take first steps toward their individual future goals. We’ve also been able to make sure that several veterans get emergency medical care – and they may have died otherwise. In 2019 I would like to begin the final phase of adding up to 15 more pods to the Veterans Village and involving the veterans staying there in the design and construction.

As a community, it’s important that we take care of those people who have served. Our village project is working. I aim to make sure it keeps doing so.

More info: bit.ly/ClackCoVetVillage.



Commissioner
Martha Schrader

Enhancing Cooperation with Schools

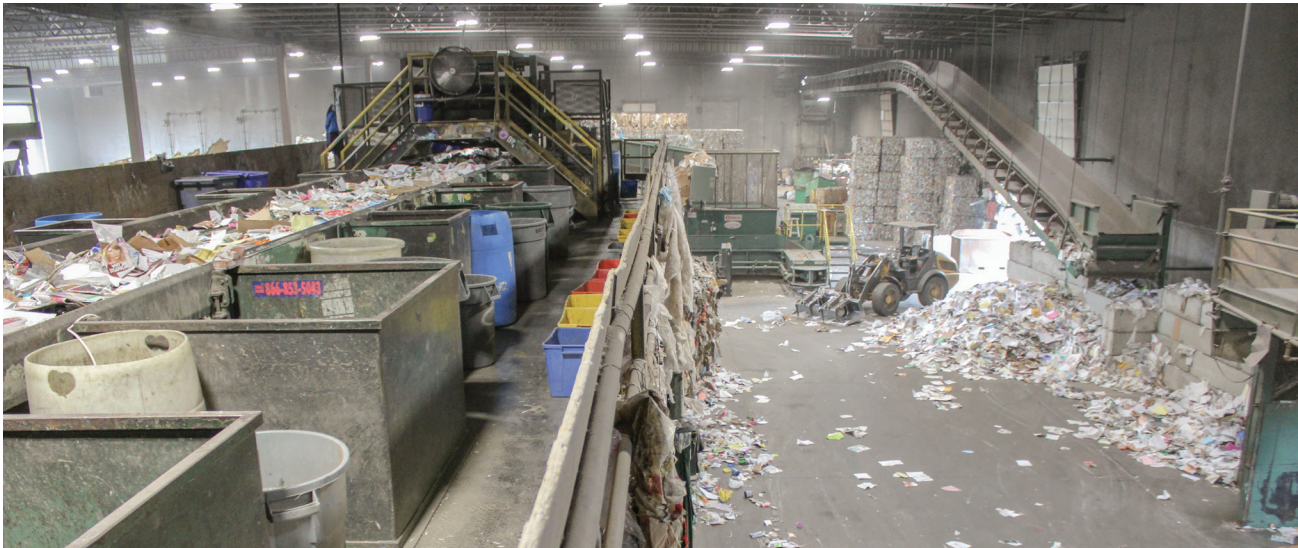
In 2019, I seek to work cooperatively with our many school districts to create a holistic and comprehensive system to address all our kids’ needs.

Right now, Clackamas County offers a lot to schools. We operate three school-based health centers. We support an interdepartmental student threat assessment program, providing resources to districts to ensure school safety as a priority. Our Water Environment Services staff offer hands-on environmental experiences for young students. The Safe Routes to School program helps create safe walking and bicycling options. And we’re going into schools to educate about suicide prevention. We can build on all of these valuable services.

More info: www.clackamas.us/ChildrenYouthAndFamilies.

The journey of recycling

From your curbside bin to a sorting facility



After recycling materials are sorted and baled, they are sold to be made into new products.

You’ve put your accepted paper, metal and plastic in the mixed recycling bin, but what happens next? Join us as we explore what happens to your recycling beyond the curb.

How your household items get sorted

When a recycling collection truck finishes its route, it goes to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF). At the MRF, the truck dumps the load of recyclables onto the warehouse floor, where they are scooped up and placed on large conveyor belts to be sorted by type of material.

The conveyor belts pass through various machines that differentiate cardboard and paper from plastic and metal containers based on shape and size. In addition to the sorting machines, workers stand along a fast-moving conveyor belt to grab higher value items, like milk jugs, and place them in a separate pile. Other workers remove items that don’t belong and can harm the machines, like plastic bags. The belt then travels under magnets

that pull metals, such as soup cans, from the line while another machine captures aluminum cans.

By the end, there are separate piles of cardboard, paper, aluminum, steel and tin, cartons and several kinds of plastic. Each material is bundled into bales and sold to make new products.

What about glass?

Glass bottles and jars are collected separately and transported to a local plant for processing. Keeping glass separate from other recyclables protects MRF workers, avoids costly repairs of recycling equipment and keeps other recyclables free of glass shards.

Look for the next issue to learn what happens to recycling after it’s sorted!

Want to learn more?

Read more about sorting recyclables and watch a brief video at www.bit.ly/invisiblesystem.

Mini-grants and waste reduction assistance available to county schools

Mini-grants

Schools in Clackamas County may apply for grants of up to \$500 to fund recycling or waste reduction projects.

Applications can be found at www.clackamas.us/recycling/minigrants.html and will be accepted through May 31.

Previous grants have been used for:

- Classroom worm bins
- Washable flatware for school lunches
- Compost tumblers
- Reusable water bottles
- School garden support
- Green classroom party kits

Waste reduction assistance

We provide the following services for recycling, composting or waste reduction programs:

- Classroom presentations
- Free recycling bins and posters
- Recycling education for staff and students
- Green team guidance
- Oregon Green School certification assistance

We're here to help!

To get started reducing the negative environmental impact at your school, contact Laurel Bates, Waste Reduction Education Coordinator, at lbates@clackamas.us or 503-742-4454.

Green Schools make a positive difference

At schools across Clackamas County, students, teachers and staff are making a difference in their communities with programs to recycle, reduce waste, save energy and conserve water.

Shown to the right, Molalla High School students pose after their waste audit, a requirement of becoming an Oregon Green School. Molalla High used their waste audit results to set goals for waste reduction in the lunchroom. Through that process, they stopped using the disposable plates seen at the bottom left corner in the photo.

Please join us in recognizing all the Clackamas County certified Oregon Green Schools for their outstanding commitment!



Premier

- Deep Creek-Damascus K-8
- Hallinan Elementary
- Oak Creek Elementary

Merit

- Candy Lane Elementary
- Cedaroak Park Primary
- Jennings Lodge Elementary
- John McLoughlin Elementary
- North Clackamas Christian
- Oregon Trail Elementary

- St. John the Apostle
- Trillium Creek Primary
- Verne Duncan Elementary
- West Hills Montessori

Green

- Ardenwald Elementary
- Bolton Primary
- Butte Creek Elementary
- Carus Elementary
- Cascade Heights Public Charter
- Columbia Academy

- Forest Hills Elementary
- Lake Grove Elementary
- Lakeridge Junior High
- Linwood Elementary
- Lowrie Primary
- Milwaukie High
- Molalla Elementary
- Molalla High
- Molalla River Middle
- Oregon City Service Learning Academy (OCSLA)
- Portland Waldorf

- Redland Elementary
- River Grove Elementary
- Scouters Mountain Elementary
- Sojourner School
- Spring Mountain Elementary
- Springwater Environmental Sciences School
- Stafford Primary
- Wilsonville High
- Westridge Elementary

Details at www.bit.ly/orgreenschools.

Clackamas County libraries to create "Libraries of Things"



Pay attention to your local library in 2019. In addition to checking out books, eBooks or a DVD for movie night, many libraries are planning to make a variety of new “Things” available to check out, such as novelty cake pans, ukuleles, board games and more!

A collection of non-standard items housed at a library is commonly called a “Library of Things.” In the coming months, eight Clackamas County public libraries plan to open one in partnership with the county’s Sustainability and Solid Waste program.

The libraries involved are Canby, Estacada, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Sandy & Hoodland, West Linn and Wilsonville.

“Our libraries are always looking for new and innovative opportunities to stimulate the imagination and promote lifelong learning, particularly where money, space or other issues may hinder a person’s ability to do so otherwise,” said Sarah McIntyre, director of the Sandy & Hoodland Public Libraries. “We’re excited to join this growing movement among libraries.”

Hillsboro Public Library opened a Library of Things in 2015, starting with board games. It now hosts over 200 items—including an air fryer, karaoke machine, and VHS to DVD converters. This past summer, Beaverton City Library also opened a Library of Things. “We don’t need a lot of space to house these items because they’re in such high demand, they’re always checked out,” said Michele Caldwell with Beaverton City Library. To manage demand, many libraries have multiples of popular items.

A Library of Things also helps promote a more sustainable community. “These collections support a growing trend of people downsizing and decluttering their lives from the “stuff” we tend to accumulate,” said Stacy Ludington with the Sustainability and Solid Waste program. “It takes natural resources such as land, water, fossil fuels and metals to grow and manufacture the items people buy. However, if 10 people share one item, the energy and resource consumption needed for everyone to enjoy it decreases significantly.”

A Library of Things can help you:

- Try before you buy, like a GoPro camera or board game
- Learn a new skill, such as sewing or playing an instrument
- Borrow an item you rarely use, like a stud finder
- And more!

What would YOU like to check out at a Library of Things?

Tell us by taking a survey at www.bit.ly/LibraryofThingsInput.

Thanks!

Preventing food waste at The Bomber

The Bomber Restaurant in Oak Grove has been in owner Punky Scott’s family for generations and is recognized as a staple in the community.

The restaurant’s history of pursuing sustainable practices is nearly as deep as its 70-year history of providing delicious homemade food. Their efforts to reduce waste are particularly impressive.

“Years ago we had a farmer who came by and picked up all our food waste,” said Scott. “Eventually he stopped, and all our food waste ended up in the landfill. It was a disaster, but I was soon approached by the county to consider composting.”

Scott and her family have long been fierce recycling advocates, so choosing to compost was easy. She has also witnessed firsthand how much food goes to the landfill, after peering into her garbage bin one day and seeing a startling amount of food that was not being eaten by customers.

“We realized our generous portion of french fries was being wasted, so we reduced the portion size,” Scott said. “With our composting program, very little food gets wasted,” said Scott. “Being a sustainable business is important to me—and my grandkids. By changing how we handle food in our kitchen, we’re improving our bottom line and



helping to preserve Oregon’s natural resources for future generations.”

Scott also repurposes excess food in the following day’s menu. For example, she prepared nearly 300 pounds of corned beef for St. Patrick’s Day, and turned the unserved portion into a cabbage soup.

“The key is to take a look at what was being wasted,” advises Scott. “Think about what it takes to grow the food, and how many people are hungry all over the world. They’d give anything for some leftover stew, bread or salad.”

If you own or manage a food service business, learn how you can prevent food waste, donate excess or set up compost service. Compost service is available to food service businesses in most urban areas of Clackamas County. Contact us at 503-742-4458 or lis@clackamas.us to learn about service in your area, free resources and how to get started.

Oregon E-cycles provides convenient, free drop-off locations throughout the county to responsibly recycle electronics such as computers, monitors, printers and televisions.



Recycle your electronics

oregon

E-CYCLES

oregonecycles.org

1-888-532-9253



MASTER RECYCLER PROGRAM

Become a MASTER RECYCLER

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

Registration is now open for the Clackamas County course starting April 3. Deadline for applications is Wednesday, March 6 at noon. Earn Master Recycler Certification by attending the course and volunteering 30 hours.

Details and application at www.masterrecycler.org

About Trash Talk

Trash Talk pages are provided by Clackamas County’s Sustainability & 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 Sustainability & Solid Waste

503-557-6363 | wasteinfo@clackamas.us | www.clackamas.us/recycling

Paving and bridge repairs this summer

Over 18 miles of roads are scheduled to be paved in 2019

While it might seem long a long way off until summer, our team is busy preparing for the upcoming paving season. Our tentative plans for the summer are below, but please note that the following project details could change.

Road paving

This year's scheduled pavement preservation program includes over 15 miles of roads in unincorporated Clackamas County, including the following large projects:

Beavercreek area: 5 miles

- Beavercreek Road: Upper Highland Road to Henrici Road
- Wilsonville area: 7 miles
- Wilsonville Road: County line to Willamette Way
- Ladd Hill Road: Wilsonville Road to Heater Road
- Heater Road: Ladd Hill Road to Coral Creek Road

Damascus area: 3 miles

- Borges Road: Tillstrom Road to 222nd Dr
- Kingswood Ct: Kingswood Way to end-of-county maintenance
- Kingswood Way: Borges Road to Yellowhammer St
- Trillium Ct: Kingswood Way to end-of-county maintenance
- Yellowhammer St: west dead end to end-of-county maintenance

For the remaining 3 miles of road paving work, our crews will repair short spans of roadway throughout the county, including:

- digging out and repaving rough pavement
- sealing cracks
- repairing slides



Staff inspect Foster Creek before bridge scour repairs to deflect flow away and preserve the retaining walls and culvert foundation at Baker's Ferry Road last year.

Bridge repair

We will also repair bridges to improve erosion control. We may add additional bridge repair work this summer. Currently, our schedule includes:

- Still Creek Road Bridge, Zigzag area
- Boardman Ave., Jennings Lodge area

Watch a video to learn more about bridge scour projects at www.bit.ly/bridgescour.

Routine maintenance

Routine maintenance work will also take place all summer. Striping, sweeping and vegetation removal, inspecting culverts and storm sewers, filling in ruts at the shoulder, digging ditches, and repairing guardrails, traffic signs and signals will help keep travelers safe and roads in good condition throughout the county.

To see more of what Transportation Maintenance does all year long, visit www.clackamas.us/roads.

Their job is to make the roads safe; help make their workplace safe, too!



Transportation Maintenance is in the business of safety. Every day we work to keep travelers safe by maintaining one of the county's biggest assets – our 1,400-mile road network.

You've no doubt seen us at work. In addition to maintaining the roadways, we preserve more than 180 bridges, 8,200 cross-culverts and storm sewers, 26,000 road signs and so much more to make sure you can get where you need to go safely and smoothly.

This means our staff is working outdoors in every season, often in challenging conditions. One of the biggest safety risks for our staff is just being at work where they too-often encounter distracted, speeding or intoxicated drivers, and even driverless cars that don't respond to work zone signs.

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation on average, more than one person is hurt everyday in a work zone in the state.

We ask you, the traveling public, the people we are trying to keep safe every day, to help keep us safe too! Let's work together to improve traffic safety and reduce unnecessary incidents on the road.

You can help us keep your roads safe and well-maintained by helping our workers be safe. We encourage you to follow these work zone safety tips from the Federal Highway Administration:

- stay alert and minimize distractions
- dedicate your full attention to the roadway
- keep your headlights on
- pay attention to the road
- merge into the proper lane safely
- follow other vehicles at a safe distance
- obey the posted speed limit
- follow instructions from flaggers
- expect the unexpected
- be patient

We and our families thank you for doing your part to keep our roads safe for all travelers.

For tips on how you can be a safer driver, visit www.drivetozero.org.

Clearing vegetation improves sight distance

Property owners in Clackamas County are responsible for removing trees, brush and other vegetation on their property near the roadway. Better lines of sight allow those traveling to see oncoming traffic, bicyclists and pedestrians, traffic signs, animals along the roadway and other potential safety hazards. If it's difficult to see traffic as you leave your property, it's most likely time to cut back the trees or brush.

"The more you can see along the roadway, the better. Removing obstructions improves safety for all travelers," said Road Supervisor Travis Wootan.

For questions, please call 503-557-6391 or email RoadConcerns@clackamas.us.



Overgrown brush blocks the intersection and traffic signs, increasing the safety risk for anyone driving, biking and walking.

Let us know where you see road hazards

Reporting road concerns helps keep our roads safe! If you see safety concerns such as:

- Stop signs that are down or missing
- Malfunctioning traffic signals
- Traffic obstructions such as trees, debris or other material, standing water, or dead deer or elk blocking traffic flow on the roadway
- Potholes or sink holes imposing significant traffic hazards

Please report road concerns:

- Website: www.bit.ly/roadconcern
- Phone: 503-557-6391
- Email: RoadConcerns@clackamas.us



Canby Ferry hours shift for the season

The Canby Ferry hours of operation were extended to 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day through March 9. Starting March 10, the ferry will provide daily service from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sign up for email updates at www.bit.ly/canbyferry.

Construction begins in 2019 on roadway improvements in Clackamas Town Center area

Construction on the Clackamas Regional Center Mobility Improvements Project is expected to begin in spring 2019 and be completed in 2021. More than 30 transportation projects have been designed, with input from the public and area businesses and property owners, to improve safety and increase traffic flow for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders.



The \$26-million project is funded through tax increment financing from the county’s Clackamas Town Center Urban Renewal District.

Three major construction phases are planned, one each year in 2019, 2020 and 2021. An overview of activities in 2019 is below. For more details, check the project website at www.crcmobilityproject.org or sign up for email alerts at www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html.

Stage 1 Improvement Projects, Spring-Fall 2019

I-205 Bridge: A new bridge structure on the south side will provide wider pedestrian and bike facilities, and a new travel lane configuration to improve traffic flow. The bridge will remain open during construction.

Sunnyside Road:

- A new sidewalk and bike facilities will be added to the south side of Sunnyside Road between 82nd Avenue and the west side of the I-205 bridge.

- One travel lane will be removed on Sunnyside Road between 84th Avenue and the 9000 block to provide room for a cycle track. Landscaped planters from 3 - 6 feet wide will buffer these facilities from the roadway.

84th Avenue: Stormwater facilities will be installed on the west side of SE 84th Avenue between SE Sunnyside Road and SE Sunnybrook Boulevard to treat stormwater runoff from the current and improved transportation facilities.

Northbound I-205 off ramp at Sunnyside Road:

A second right-turn lane will be added to make it easier and safer for traffic to make right-hand turns onto eastbound Sunnyside Road.

Harmony Road: A wider sidewalk and stormwater planter strip will be added to the north side of SE Harmony Road between 82nd Avenue and the Clackamas Community College (CCC) Harmony Campus, and a crosswalk with pedestrian-activated signal and refuge area will be installed on Harmony Road at CCC.

- 80th Avenue between Harmony Road and Southgate Street will be widened and paved to provide additional traffic circulation.
- A 12-foot multi-use path will be constructed – without impacting significant trees or natural resources – behind the North Clackamas Aquatic Center, to extend the current sidewalk east to 82nd Avenue.

Traffic impact

- Traffic control will be in place for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists to maintain safety.
- Construction that affects traffic near the I-205



The pedestrian crossing across Harmony Road to the Clackamas Community College campus will be made safer with the addition of a pedestrian-activated signal and a refuge area.

ramps and 82nd Avenue, and all storm system work, will be completed at night.

- There will be occasional partial lane closures; but no complete road closures are anticipated.
- Construction on Sunnyside Road will be planned to minimize impacts to businesses and motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Between November 15 and January 10, work will be restricted so as not to interfere with additional traffic expected at that time of year.

Stay informed during construction

Contact Project Manager Terry Mungenast at terrymun@clackamas.us or 503-742-4656

- Visit the project website at www.crcmobilityproject.org
- Sign up for email alerts at www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html
- Watch for variable message signs posted in advance of work to alert drivers to activity

Get essential gardening tips March 2 at Garden Discovery Day

Learn all you need to jump start the 2019 gardening season by joining the Oregon State University (OSU) Master Gardeners for essential gardening tips at Garden Discovery Day, 8:30 a.m. to noon March 2 at the Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive in Milwaukie.

This free event covers a wide range of topics through 10-minute university classes, demonstrations, educational displays and soil pH testing service. Throughout the morning, a clinic staffed by veteran Master Gardeners will offer one-on-one advice on any and all gardening questions.

Master Gardeners are volunteers trained by OSU in the science of gardening to serve home gardeners of their community. The 10-Minute University program of Clackamas County Master Gardeners exemplifies this spirit — each class offers a short-cut to gardening know-how that is proven and practical. Participants take home a handout that succinctly captures key points of each subject.

- Enthusiasts of edible gardening will benefit from classes on growing blueberries, tomatoes and early-season vegetables. For ideas on how to save money and time this summer, attend a new class on how to grow vegetables under drought conditions.
- Interested in ornamental plants? Find inspiration from ‘Design a 3-Season Container’

for steps toward making a container that stays beautiful spring through fall.

- Need a checklist for rejuvenating the garden? ‘Spring Ornamental Gardening’ shares tips for cleanup, pruning and mulching.
- Looking for native plants to add beauty and wildlife benefits? Get answers from a new class on native plants for examples of worthy candidates.
- Gardeners who want to master pruning will learn scientific principles behind how to prune fruit trees, ornamental shrubs and trees.

This event is offered in collaboration with the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Program, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District and the Milwaukie Center.

For more information, visit www.cmastergardeners.org.



Hamlet program offers unique way to stay connected to community

Clackamas County’s hamlet program offers a unique opportunity for residents and business owners in unincorporated areas to become more involved with county government and help support their communities.

There are currently three active hamlets — the Hamlet of Beavercreek, the Hamlet of Mulino and the Stafford Hamlet. While each has distinctive goals and activities, they share common interests in retaining the flavor of their community, promoting activities to benefit the community, working with Clackamas County and outside organizations, and providing their residents increased access to and information about the county.

Hamlets have community-elected boards of directors. These volunteers are vital to the success of the program. Serving on a hamlet board is an excellent way to get involved, be solutions-oriented and serve the local community.

If you are interested in serving on your hamlet board, go to: www.clackamas.us/community/handv.html.

The hamlets just wrapped up their election season, but there are many other ways to participate. Find out more about hamlet and other community meetings, activities and initiatives at www.clackamas.us/community.

County benefits from growing 211info and referral system

Everyone knows calling 9-1-1 can save your life, but did you know calling 2-1-1 can get you or someone you care about help by connecting you to health and human services resources?

211 is a national partnership between state and local organizations and programs levels to provide access to comprehensive and specialized information and referral services in every community. 211 is available to nearly the entire US population throughout all 50 states plus Washington DC and Puerto Rico. In Canada, eight provinces and territories have access to 211 and expansion continues.

In Oregon and Southwest Washington, 211 services are offered by 211info; their shared community database contains approximately 30,000 services offered by more than 2,600 agencies. The continually updated database connects people in need to nonprofit, government and faith-based organizations that provide services at no-cost, low-cost or on a sliding scale fee based on income.

“Most importantly, 211info serves everyone and does not discriminate — we are committed to equity when making decisions that impact our staff, workplace and the diverse communities we serve,” said Cara Kangas, 211info Manager of Outreach and Emerging Services in Portland.

Clackamas County recently formed an additional partnership with 211info to support the goals of its Youth Continuum Committee to unify services for people ages 8 to 25. Committee members represent the Clackamas County’s Juvenile Department; Children, Family and Community Connections Division; Northwest Family Services-Vibrant Futures;

Cascadia Behavior Healthcare; and other county departments and community non-profits that support and provide youth services.

The committee’s goals include:

- Collectively increase youth services in Clackamas County
- Collaborating and improving the connection among youth services
- Providing the right services, at the right time, to the right people, in the right place
- Sharing resources and proactively addressing youth issues
- Leveraging support for federal, state or local funding opportunities
- Promoting the continuum of services from prenatal/early childhood to adult/elder services

The committee’s partnership with 211info will help the county provide an easy and safe way for youth to get the help they need without fear of judgment or discrimination.



“Many young people who need services have experienced trauma and can feel isolated,” said Tanya Kramer, Clackamas County Juvenile Department Supervisor. “Being able to text, email, call or see the online 211info database makes it an easy and non-threatening way to seek help. Families of youth can also access this service which can empower the family, especially if the family is navigating economic challenges.”

If you or someone you care about needs help, please call 2-1-1 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., download the 211info mobile app, search for resources on www.211info.org, text your zip code to 898211 or email help@211info.org.

To learn more about the Clackamas County Youth Continuum Committee and to register for the upcoming 211 Information Forum on April 11, go to www.clackamas.us.



Clackamas Mental Health Center gets a makeover

Formerly known as the Riverstone Clinic, the Clackamas County Mental Health Center (Clackamas MHC) is a supportive place where people in crisis can talk to a counselor or peer support advocate for information, treatment and support.

Located at the Ross Center at 11211 SE 82nd Ave. (near Clackamas Town Center), Clackamas MHC is committed to helping people who experience urgent mental health issues receive needed services and support. It will continue to provide crisis services to anyone living in the county regardless of their ability to pay or insurance plan.

Find more information, including services offered and hours, at bit.ly/clackamasmhc.

If you are experiencing a mental health emergency, you can the crisis line at 503-655-8585.



We're Hiring!


Join us to make a difference!

We offer a variety of career paths with a blend of full-time, part-time, and temporary positions.

The list of open positions changes frequently. Check back often!

<https://www.clackamas.us/des/jobs.html>

or contact Clackamas County Human Resources at: jobs@clackamas.us





#ClackCo 

PublicAlerts

Clackamas County has upgraded how it communicates with residents during emergency and disaster situations. All residents are urged to enroll or reenroll in the new system to receive critical life safety messaging via email, phone call, and text.

Learn more about the new Public Alerts Notification System at www.clackamas.us/publicalerts

Clackamas County Disaster Management





Oregon ranked #3 in volunteering among the states

Get involved

Clackamas County is proud to lead the community in a variety of volunteering activities to help residents live healthier, more socially connected lives. Volunteers are needed for programs such as:

- Money Management Program
- Transportation Reaching People
- Warming Center monitors

Learn more about volunteer opportunities at www.clackamas.us.

Health, Housing & Human Services 
CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Juul use on the rise among teens

According to the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 25 percent of Clackamas County high school juniors said they used a tobacco product within the last 30 days, one in three said it would be “very easy” to get tobacco, and 41 percent reported they used at least one form of tobacco before age 18.

Juul is a popular electronic nicotine delivery device (e-cigarette) that comes in many flavors attractive to kids, such as mint, mango and vanilla creme.

According to the 2018 National Youth Tobacco Survey recently published by the U.S Food & Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there was a 78 percent increase in e-cigarette use among high school students, and a 48 percent increase among middle school students from 2017 to 2018, due largely in part to the



popularity of Juul. The survey also reveals that kids who use e-cigarettes, like Juul, are more likely to try combustible cigarettes later on.

Read the full survey and learn how Clackamas County Public Health is supporting communities to prevent youth tobacco and nicotine use at www.clackamas.us/publichealth/tobacco.html.

Sandy High School receives 2018 School Based Health Center Excellence Award

Recently, officials from the Oregon Health Authority awarded the School Based Health Center (SBHC) at Sandy High School with the 2018 SBHC Excellence award.

The center has the highest rate of well visits in the state — regular check-ups to help youth to achieve optimal health at each stage in development — among 5-21 year-old clients this year (at 71 percent).

“We know that all of our School Based Health Centers staff work really hard to make sure every school-aged youth has a well visit no matter the barriers,” said Deborah Cockrell, Director of Clackamas County Health Centers. “It isn’t easy to accomplish this, so we are very appreciative of the commitment by staff to provide this important service.”

Five local schools offer services to any child enrolled within their school district:

- Estacada High School
- Milwaukie High School
- Oregon City High School
- Rex Putnam High School (Milwaukie)
- Sandy High School

All enrolled students are eligible for services at the school representing their district, and students and



families are not charged for services.

Clackamas County’s School Based Health Centers provide free and confidential medical services to students. They are a unique health care model for physical, mental and preventive health services provided to youth at school.

There are many benefits to the model, including:

- improves access to quality health services
- reduces high costs associated with emergency rooms and unnecessary hospitalizations
- provides access to age appropriate services
- saves parents time by reducing missed work hours
- keeps students in class and ready to learn

To learn more about the School Based Health Centers, visit www.clackamas.us/healthcenters/schoolhealth.html.



WIC: Healthy Foods, Healthy Kids, Healthy Families

Clackamas County’s Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program is a public health nutrition program that helps families with healthy food and so much more.

WIC provides:

- benefits to buy healthy foods like whole grains, milk, and fruits and vegetables
- breastfeeding help and breast pumps for moms who need them
- help with questions about nutrition, exercise, feeding kids, prenatal care and more

Clackamas County provides WIC services in four locations throughout the county. To be eligible for WIC, applicants must:

- Live in Oregon.
- Be a pregnant, postpartum or breastfeeding woman, or an infant or a child younger than five years old
- Have a household income less than 185 percent of the federal poverty limit. Individuals who can prove they are eligible for Medicaid/Oregon Health Plan, TANF, SNAP/Food Stamps or FDPIR are income-eligible for WIC.
- Schedule an in-person nutrition assessment and eligibility appointment at one of our four Clackamas locations

For more information, visit www.clackamas.us/publichealth/wic.html or call 503-655-8476 with questions.



Free Food Market

Visit the Beavercreek Health Center on the first Tuesday of each month to access free, fresh, and healthy fruits and vegetables and pantry staples.

110 Beavercreek Rd Oregon City, 97045
10 to 11:30 a.m. (first Tuesdays of each month)

Shopping at Free Food Market is simple:

- This food is free; anybody welcome
- No ID, name, or address needed.
- Please bring bags or boxes

Please contact the Oregon Food Bank with questions
503-282-0555 | rrshryock@oregonfoodbank.org

Moments with your baby are precious

Baby wipes are convenient and save time, until they cause inconvenient and costly plumbing issues in your home and community's sanitary sewer system due to clogged pipes and sewage backups.

Wipes of all types can make family clean ups a snap. Just remember to dispose of baby wipes in the trash along with surface cleaning wipes, paper towels, cotton balls and swabs.



Meet your Community Service Officers

One of the most public-facing jobs at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office is also one of the least understood.

You meet them when you go to a Clackamas County Sheriff's Office station desk to file a police report or ask a question. You meet them when you attend a crime-prevention presentation or start a Neighborhood Watch. You might talk with them during a criminal investigation.

They're Community Service Officers (CSOs). And they're critical to the day-to-day operations at the Sheriff's Office and in the Clackamas County Jail's public lobby.

"A CSO is a non-sworn, uniformed officer with limited peace-officer authority," said Letitia Walker, who's worked as a CSO for over a decade and is currently stationed out of Happy Valley. "Basically, we can work on criminal investigations up to the point of an arrest."

They're also, as CSO Rose Parkhill explains, "the first point of contact for the public who come to the Sheriff's Office — we man the two walk-up windows."

"We're often the voice of the Sheriff's Office on calls for service that don't require immediate assistance," says Lorenzo Medina, a CSO who's worked for both the patrol and jail divisions throughout his 12 years with the organization.

CSOs enjoy a broad range of duties. They're prepared to answer questions from the public on a dizzying array of issues — everything from directions to criminal law to procedural questions, such as the process for filing a restraining order.

They also register sex offenders, take police reports, and back up Search & Rescue Coordinators by helping corral resources.

They even conduct their own investigations, along with responding to 'cold crimes,' which are often property crimes. They are also critical when coordinating responses, for example, for package-theft crime spree targeting a specific neighborhood.

"Because we respond from the desk by phone in all districts, we may also be the first to recognize certain crime trends — such as package thefts, scams or acts of criminal mischief," said CSO Julie



Community Service Officers (CSOs) work at the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office public desks, teach crime prevention and offer crucial backup to deputies investigating crimes. In a new series of Sheriff's Office web profiles, you can learn more about these unsung employees critical to daily operations at the sheriff's office.

Fanger, who works out of Wilsonville.

CSO Sara McClurg is a critical public face for the Sheriff's Office. As CCSO's Crime Prevention Coordinator, she gives safety presentations across the county, leads office tours for visitors, and helps residents set up Neighborhood Watches. She's also part of the Neighborhood Livability Project, a multi-agency initiative targeting nuisance houses across Clackamas County.

"The Neighborhood Livability Project has been especially rewarding work," McClurg said. "We devise and implement plans to reduce or eliminate the negative effects of highly problematic residential properties. Since its inception three years ago, we have 126 properties no longer considered a threat to the community, and another 24 still needing our attention."

The rewards of CSO work can also be smaller-scale but deeply satisfying.

"My favorite moment as a CSO was when I was able to reunite someone with a wallet he'd lost while hunting a year earlier," Walker said. "A year later, another hunter had found it and returned it to us, dirty, but intact. The \$400 inside was a bit faded, but still there. It's always a good feeling to reunite victims with recovered property."

Want to learn more about Community Service Officers and their day-to-day work? The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office just profiled five CSOs in detail, and you can find links to the profiles at www.clackamas.us/sheriff/cso.html.

County responds to changed law making strangulation a felony

An amended Oregon law that took effect on Jan. 1 increases the crime of strangulation during domestic violence to a felony.

Strangulation was previously a misdemeanor in Oregon and only a felony under specific circumstances.

Clackamas County's leaders, lawmakers and advocates see this change as long overdue.

"Domestic violence involving strangulation is always life-threatening and when a victim survives forever life-altering," said Clackamas County Commissioner Sonya Fischer. "This important law change elevates strangulation to dangerous assault against those whose physical and emotional health are forever affected by someone they live with and once trusted."

Under the newly revised law, a person commits the crime of strangulation if the person knowingly attempts to stop the normal breathing or blood flow of another person by:

- Applying pressure on the throat or neck of the other person
- Blocking the nose or mouth of the other person
- Applying pressure to the chest of the other person (NEW)

"More than half of domestic violence victims report being strangled, and an even higher percentage of women escaping to domestic violence shelters report being strangled," said Sarah Van Dyke, Clackamas County's Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator. "Many victims of a domestic violence homicide had experienced non-lethal strangulation within the year prior to their murder."

The Clackamas County Strangulation Response Initiative aims to make a difference. This collaborative of multi-disciplined professionals is trained in strangulation crimes. It represents the District Attorney's Office, local hospitals, law enforcement agencies, Clackamas Women's Services, Victims Assistance, Parole and Probation. Initiative members developed protocols to improve the detection, documentation and response to cases of domestic violence strangulation, as well as increase the accountability of offenders. Additionally, they prioritize education and training of law enforcement, dispatch, advocates, the courts, medical personnel and others.

See Van Dyke's presentation on Strangulation and Domestic Violence: Invisible Wounds <https://bit.ly/2AZaiZR>.

If you or someone you know is in danger, call 9-1-1. You can also call the Clackamas Women's Services 24-hour crisis line at 503-654-2288.

Clackamas County offers free class for women impacted by domestic violence

If you are a woman who has experienced abuse by a current or former intimate partner, the Women's Empowerment Project (WEP) can help you break the cycle. Abuse comes in different forms, all of which have an impact on various aspects of our lives.

Sponsored by Clackamas County Community Corrections, WEP is specifically designed for

women wanting to create healthy, violence-free lives. Topics in this free, 14-week class include: the cycle of violence, coping mechanisms, effects of abuse on children, safety planning and more.

If you or someone you know is interested in the WEP class, contact Shannon Barkley, Victim Services Program Coordinator, at sbarkley@clackamas.us or call 503-655-8776.

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- Ski wax: Produced by county-based manufacturer Boardside Down Wax, this highlights our residents' love for Mount Hood. (*Performance Clackamas goal: Honor, utilize, promote and invest in our natural resources*)
- View-Master: This item, used in recent years by the county in a marketing campaign, provides

glimpses of how the county looks today.

- Water filtration system: Clackamas County continually raises awareness about the risk to the area posed by earthquakes. This item is perfect to include in a "stay-kit," which residents are encouraged to develop. (*Performance Clackamas goal: Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities*)

- Letters from each current commissioner to their future counterparts.
- A photo from the 175th anniversary celebration held weeks ago, featuring current and former county commissioners, as well as another photo featuring the new display in the commissioners' Hearing Room, which lists all former commissioners.

Are you prepared for flooding?

Learn how you can take steps to protect your home and family.



Flooding poses a threat to life and safety and can cause severe damage to public and private property. Clackamas County has created a series of videos and other resources that will inform you about:

- The history of floods in Clackamas County, the differing scales in which they have unfolded, and how glacial retreat could intensify future flooding events and increase their frequency.
- Erosion and channel migration and how it is often the most damaging component of floods.
- How habitat restoration can both enhance the habitat for wildlife and reduce potential flood risks.
- Ways homeowners can reduce their flood insurance rates and better protect their homes.

For more information, go to:
www.clackamas.us/dm/flooding.html

What’s in the Runoff?

Anything on the ground can be picked up when it rains and washed into local streams, including bacteria, oil, grease, metals, fertilizers, sediment, herbicides and other pollutants.

If It’s on the Ground, It’s in the Water

Our roads, homes and buildings contribute huge volumes of polluted runoff to area streams and can affect water quality and harm organisms that live in those streams. Just as each of us may contribute to pollution, each of us can be part of the solution.

How You Can Help



Reduce the use of fertilizer and pesticide



Only stormwater in storm drains



Scoop the poop!



Use car washes

More information?
Visit clackamas.us/wes



WES works to protect our rivers and streams while planning for the future

As an Oregonian, you know all about the large amounts of rain we get during the long winter months. While the rain has many benefits, it also poses challenges for those managing water quality in Clackamas County.

Storm runoff from homes and businesses carries chemicals, trash and other harmful pollutants into waterways, putting aquatic life and drinking water supplies at risk. In fact, polluted storm runoff is a leading source of water pollution in Oregon.

In addition to its water quality protection efforts during winter, Water Environment Services (WES) works with partners to enhance water quality year-round. WES is also exploring a new plan to broaden engagement with partners to expand watershed protection throughout the county.

WES’ Surface Water Management team implements programs to reduce pollution in our rivers, streams and wetlands. Through watershed protection and planning, WES is taking a long-term approach to protecting the health of our water resources in several ways that include:

- maintaining stormwater facilities, which capture and filter runoff
- restoring stream habitats
- monitoring water quality
- ensuring buffer zones between development and wetland/creek areas
- planning and designing regional water quality and flood reduction projects
- providing public outreach and partnerships for pollution prevention

WES’ mission closely aligns with the Board of Commissioners’ strategic goal to adopt a master plan for surface water management by 2020 to enhance the quality of surface water. The Board has directed county staff to explore the feasibility of creating a comprehensive Watershed Health Plan for the entire county.

“The idea of Clackamas County being the lead on a project like this is exciting,” said Commissioner Ken Humberston. “The goal is to develop a structure that would allow us to work cooperatively with our partners, who are already doing excellent work, to further improve surface water quality throughout Clackamas County.”

WES Environmental Services Manager Ron Wierenga said, “We’ve been asked to actively engage watershed partners throughout the county, and that’s exactly what we’ll do. Going it alone on a project like this is not an option.”

This is great news for county residents who enjoy recreational activities in Clackamas County. Long-term surface water quality protection will support Clackamas County’s water-based tourism industry, which attracts 1.5 million visitors each year. However, in 2016, Clackamas County captured only two percent of the \$12 million in lodging reservations related to water-based recreational activities in Oregon, which reveals an opportunity for improvement that could be aided by healthier rivers and streams.

The major rivers in Clackamas County include the Willamette, Clackamas, Tualatin, Sandy and Molalla-Pudding, along with small tributary streams that course through the urban and rural landscapes.

County residents like you can make a positive impact on our shared environment. WES educates residents about the importance of being good stewards of vegetated areas next to streams that protect waterways from the impacts of nearby land uses. These “riparian buffers” shade our streams and remove sediment and other pollution from farm fields, residential lawns and roadways.

WES consistently works with community partners to protect watershed health. In 2018, WES awarded \$270,000 in grants through the RiverHealth Stewardship Program to 14 grass-roots organizations dedicated to the protection of our waterways.

WES also restores habitat for fish and other wildlife and provides regulation and review of stormwater plans. This year, WES is set to complete the Carli Creek Project along the Clackamas River, which will reduce surface pollution originating from the surrounding industrial area. The project includes habitat structures for fish and other aquatic life along with erosion control.

Do you want to get involved? You can learn more about the WES Surface Water Management Program by visiting www.clackamas.us/wes.

Grants help the vulnerable and needy of Clackamas County

Late last year, Clackamas County Commissioners announced the recipient organizations of \$300,000 from the annual Small Grants Program.

These funds help the most vulnerable families, seniors, and others in the county meet basic needs, such as food assistance and abuse prevention.

This year, commissioners and the county Budget Committee allocated \$300,000 for the program – a \$50,000 increase from previous years. To be selected, projects must demonstrate the ability to become fully self-supported or illustrate the grant request is for a one-time expense.

This year’s recipients and projects include:

- **Building Blocks 4 Kids (\$12,000):** Funds help youth aging out of the foster care system to establish a path toward a successful and independent life.
- **Clackamas Education Service District – C-TEC Youth Services (\$10,000):** Funds the Youth Career Development Project, which helps prepare youth for various trade professions in demand.
- **Community Warehouse (\$7,500):** Provides mattresses for families in need.
- **Fort Kennedy (\$10,000):** Purchased a van to transport veterans in rural areas of the county to services.

This year, the program gave priority to projects serving populations located within areas called "Equity Pilot Areas," which were specifically identified as having a strong need for county assistance due to poverty. Of 21 organizations that received project funding for specific areas of the county, 10 serve these pilot areas: Canby, Estacada and Milwaukie.

For more information and to view the full list of awardees, visit www.bit.ly/ClackCoSmallGrants.



#ClackCo Academy

ClackCo Academy gives members of the community the opportunity to learn about county services and programs. Participants get a unique look at how Clackamas County functions by hearing from staff in various county departments, taking place in group discussions, and touring county facilities.

Apply by March 1 to be one of 25 lucky people to participate in the 2019 #ClackCo Academy! Apply at www.bit.ly/ClackAcademy.

Call Katie Wilson at 503-655-8552 or email kwilson2@clackamas.us for more information.



Veterans Village brings early success

Last October, Clackamas County Commissioners realized a long-awaited goal that helps get more homeless veterans off the streets. As relayed in the previous edition of the #ClackCo Quarterly, the Clackamas County Veterans Village can shelter up to 15 homeless vets in separate pods while they access needed services and work with the county to become stably housed and self-sufficient.

Homeless veterans started moving in during early October. The fast, positive results are encouraging. After just two months (as of early December):

- Two individuals transitioned into permanent housing through the county’s Social Services housing programs.
- Two individuals secured employment.
- Two individuals that previously relied on emergency medicine established primary care physicians and have regular medical visits.
- One individual enrolled in classes at Clackamas Community College.

The village has also potentially saved lives. Since moving in, three residents had experienced extremely serious and urgent health problems, necessitating emergency services to rush to the

scene. If these veterans had been on the streets – away from this new community – each one would have risked death.

“This project has already had some success,” said Commissioner Paul Savas, who has played a key role in the village. “We have a goal to end veteran homelessness in the county by the end of 2019, and this is good news and a great example toward achieving that goal.”

Paramount to this project was the effort put forth by hundreds of volunteers who painted and performed construction on the pods. For their work, Clackamas County is eternally grateful. As a show of appreciation, the county held an event in November for the volunteers who contributed their time.

“Securing volunteers from across the county was the most important part of making this project a reality,” said Commissioner Martha Schrader, who also played a key role in the project. “Once we had the volunteers join us, the project became unstoppable, and this is just the beginning.”

More on the village project can be found at www.clackamas.us/transitionalhousing.

Metro bond creates new housing opportunities

Metro-area voters recently approved a \$652.8 million general obligation bond, a proactive measure to address homelessness and create affordable housing within Metro’s urban growth boundary.

The bond allows the opportunity for our region to invest in the development of new housing resources for some of our most vulnerable and historically marginalized residents.

Clackamas County currently has about 41 percent of the affordable homes needed to meet our residents’ needs. This includes single family homes, apartments in the private market that do not

have rent limits and apartments with rent limits (regulated affordable housing).

The county will receive approximately 20.8 percent (\$116 million) of the bond money, which could fund the purchase of land to build on, construction of new homes or fund the purchase and renovation of existing housing to ensure long-term affordability. The bond will cost homeowners, on average, about \$60 per year over the next 30 years.

For more information about the housing bond funds, visit www.clackamas.us/metrohousing.

COURTHOUSE cont'd from page 1
campaign to understand the needs of residents relating to the courthouse, and the county commissioners are planning a listening tour to discuss all options with city and other county leaders to determine the best course of action to plan and fund a new courthouse.

One of the first actions county staff took to understand residents’ views on a new courthouse was to conduct a survey for residents to express their ideas, thoughts and considerations. The survey, which took place from Nov. 13 to Dec. 13,

2018 revealed that residents understand the issues that come along with an aging courthouse and agree that funding should be provided to support a new one.

The public outreach campaign is ongoing, and we encourage residents to contact us with any questions about upcoming public events where they can hear about the latest courthouse developments.

For more information, go to: www.clackamas.us/courthouse.



Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Getting the Right Help, Right Away

The Behavioral Health Unit embeds with deputies in the field. Together, they work to keep people in mental health crisis out of jail — and connected with the services they really need.

There is one death by suicide every five days in Clackamas County — a 16 percent higher rate than the national suicide rate. With one in four adults experiencing mental health challenges in their lifetime, many calls that come into dispatch involve a person experiencing a mental health emergency. Getting those individuals the help they need is critical.

"Every day we respond to a call where someone is in a mental health crisis," said Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Sgt. **Dennis Kishpaugh**. "We want to help." But he acknowledges the challenge faced whenever deputies are first on the scene of an incident involving mental health crisis: "We're not mental health professionals."

Clackamas County Sheriff **Craig Roberts** and other county leaders also recognized the problem, and identified an essential need: to provide mental health assessments for people in need, rather than taking them directly to jail.

This led them to create the **Clackamas County Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)**.

"The Sheriff pulled some partners together to ask, 'What can we do differently to help our deputies respond to these calls in partnership with mental health?'" explained **Mary Rumbaugh**, Behavioral Health Director for Clackamas County Health, Housing and Human Services' Behavioral Health Division.



BHU Mental Health Specialist Teal Bohrer (left) accompanies Patrol Sgt. Dennis Kishpaugh on a call. You can find a video in which Bohrer and Kishpaugh talk about the Behavioral Health Unit at www.youtube.com/ClackamasSheriff

Learn more about the Behavioral Health Unit online at

www.clackamas.us/sheriff/bhu.html

The BHU team was the result. It's made up of five full-time mental health clinicians embedded with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office. They respond with deputies to calls involving a person experiencing a mental health challenge.

The partnership between the Sheriff's Office and

the county's Behavioral Health Division is changing lives.

Teal Bohrer is a BHU Mental Health Specialist. She recalls responding to a call involving an individual who was suicidal.

"We were able to help negotiate with him and get him into the hospital, where he received the help he needed," said Bohrer. "He was very grateful to the Sheriff's Office and the Behavioral Health Unit for being there when he needed it."

Clinicians are able to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and incarcerations by providing people with a full risk assessment on scene, and

CONTINUED ON BACK



A Safe Place turns 5 — and looks to its future

Dear Clackamas County residents:

On Dec. 13, 2018, I joined Clackamas Women's Services Executive Director **Melissa Erlbaum** at the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners meeting.

We were celebrating a very special birthday:

A Safe Place Family Justice Center turned 5 years old.

And there was a birthday present:

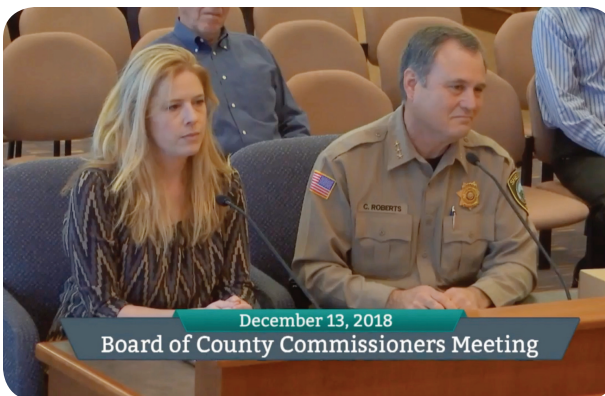
The Commissioners made plans to expand this very special facility.

We've talked about A Safe Place in these pages before. It's a unique partnership to combat family violence in Clackamas County. We know anyone experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, elder abuse, human trafficking, or stalking doesn't want to travel to several different locations to get all the help they need. That's the beauty of A Safe Place: You get all your family-violence services under one roof.

In a single building, survivors can immediately get help from over nine different agencies — help that includes advocacy, safety planning, counseling, legal support, and law enforcement assistance. (Learn more online at www.asafeplacefjc.org or by calling 503-655-8600.)

I can tell you, without a doubt: A Safe Place has saved a number of lives. Over the past five years, it's served over 4,000 residents and hosted over 20,000 visits for service. And it's helped create over 1,400 protective orders remotely, through our Video Court Program.

Melissa Erlbaum and I first approached the Com-



Above: Sheriff Roberts (far left) joins the 5th birthday celebration for A Safe Place.

Left: Melissa Erlbaum and Sheriff Roberts speak to the Clackamas County Commissioners on Dec. 13.

You can watch video of the Clackamas County Commissioners recognizing A Safe Place during their Dec. 13, 2018 meeting at youtube.com/ClackamasSheriff

missioners about seven years ago with the idea to open a Family Justice Center in Oregon. Their support — and the support of the many community and agency partners who helped make it happen — has been unbelievable. And on Dec. 13 they helped us even more, by making a special announcement: They dedicated land for a future expansion of A Safe Place on Beavercreek Road, as part of their Red Soils Master Plan. We couldn't be happier.

Happy Birthday to this very special community effort to save lives. If you need help escaping family violence, we urge you to contact **A Safe Place Family Justice Center** at www.asafeplacefjc.org or 503-655-8600.

It's an honor to serve you!

— Craig Roberts,
Clackamas County Sheriff

Behavioral Health Unit CONTINUED FROM FRONT

help accessing mental health services.

"It's about not just taking those that are expressing mental health symptoms in the field to jail," said Rumbaugh. "It's an opportunity to get folks to the right place at the right time."

The benefits of that help can extend to the en-

tire community. "If we can get them the treatment they need and avoid all of that extra chaos in their life and really get them healthy, we can hopefully prevent them from having contact with law enforcement again," said Bohrer.

For deputies on the front lines responding to these calls, seeing lives changed makes all the work worthwhile.

"It makes me feel wonderful to know that we are helping people," said Sgt. Kishpaugh. "That's why we get into this line of work: to help people." ♦

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