

# #MyClackCo

Clackamas County Semi-Annual Publication

SPRING | 2021

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# #MyClackCo

#MyClackCo is produced two times a year by the Public and Government Affairs Department. It is mailed to nearly every household in the county.

Sign up for our monthly newsletter, #ClackCo Monthly, at

[www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html](http://www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html)

Contact your commissioners at [bcc@clackamas.us](mailto:bcc@clackamas.us) or 503-655-8581



**Cover Photo**  
Forest Trail in Beavercreek  
**Parrish Danforth**,  
Health Housing and Human Services



#MyClackCo  
2051 Kaen Road  
Oregon City, OR 97045  
[www.clackamas.us](http://www.clackamas.us)



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## County Administrator Notebook: ClackCo's response to emergencies



County Administrator  
Gary Schmidt

Since March 2020, Clackamas County has faced three serious, distinct states of emergency. Our county organization – like our residents and stakeholders – has been unwavering in facing these challenges and has worked tirelessly to help our local communities during these uncertain times.

**COVID-19 pandemic:** When the pandemic hit, our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) immediately activated and sprang into action. Still active today, our EOC staff is dedicated to coordinating lifesaving resources and services to our residents as we continue through the pandemic. When Oregonians were directed to stay home, Clackamas County buildings closed for a short time to the public. Those buildings reopened to the public in June 2020 and have been open ever since.

Businesses and their employees have been hard-hit. The county has facilitated grants to help. In June, November, and twice in December, the county teamed up with community partners to provide more than \$5 million in grants to small businesses and nonprofits.

**Wildfires:** Protecting lives was our top priority during the wildfires. Almost the entire county was asked to be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office helped evacuate those in danger. Up-to-date and accurate information

was critical for the public, and our county webpage provided quick, easy information about evacuation zones and updates. Our community relied on this information – one day, our evacuation map received 2.5 million views. In the aftermath, the county partnered with government agencies, nonprofits and others to establish a fire resource center, which included updates on potential tax relief, rebuilding, Federal Emergency Management Agency requirements, and psychological first aid.

**Ice storm:** During this once-in-a-generation storm, the county set up four ice storm resource centers where community members without power could warm up, charge phones and medical devices, and get necessary supplies. Many residents remained without power for over one week, so the Sheriff's Office conducted over 1,400 welfare checks, and the county commissioners requested the National Guard for the first time in county history. The county partnered to help deliver life-saving supplies such as fuel gift cards, blankets, heating logs, batteries, flashlights, food and water.

Once power was restored, the recovery involved significant cleanup of fallen trees and limbs. To help unincorporated residents, the county offered e-gift cards for ice storm debris disposal, and coordinated assistance from a national program to offer volunteers for cleanup.

These are just some of the ways the county has responded to these three declared disasters. Please read more in *#ClackCo Strong* page 4 and *No Small Business Left Behind* page 15. These last 12 months have challenged us all. Your county government is here to support you now and into the future.

**Gary Schmidt**  
Clackamas County Administrator

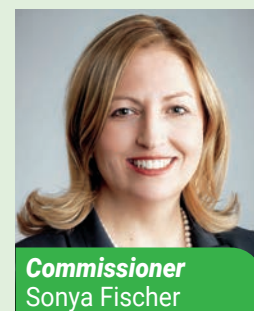
## #ClackCo Commissioners

### What are the top priorities this year for Clackamas County Commissioners?



Commissioner Chair  
Tootie Smith

As Chair of the County Commission, my priority is emergency preparedness. It's an essential role of government to be responsive to people's needs after a widespread emergency, such as the most recent ice storm, wildfires and COVID-19 pandemic. In February, I signed the third emergency declaration for Clackamas County in just 11 months. Prioritizing county resources has been essential. This requires elected officials to think beyond reacting to emergencies as they come, and instead become proactive. We should set aside money for operations, resources and trained professionals. I'm continuing with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) training I started in 2015. I believe learning about emergency management can help prepare us for the role we all have to keep our communities safe.



Commissioner  
Sonya Fischer

The pandemic and wildfires revealed how dependent we are on one another for our safety and economic security. As we emerge from this challenging time, we must prioritize recovering stronger. That includes supporting small businesses, which are the lifeblood of our local economy, and getting our children safely back to school. It also includes supporting the health and well-being of our neighbors, especially those struggling with mental health, addiction or lack of safe, dependable housing. Our common future depends on communities coming together to emerge from COVID-19 stronger with determination and pride in building the place we call home. I believe we can do better. I invite you to share your thoughts, concerns and ideas with me as we lay the groundwork for a brighter future.



Commissioner  
Paul Savas

With COVID-19, the wildfires, and the ice storm we have had more than our share of setbacks. Recovery for those families, employees, businesses, and schools impacted by these emergencies is my top priority. The best way to assist in the recovery is to collaborate as a team to give clear direction to our management team on what those priorities are. Public outreach, community feedback in particular, is an important tool to help inform and align our priorities with the emerging needs. We will continue to host listening sessions on key topics and we encourage everyone to contact us on issues of importance.



Commissioner  
Martha Schrader

Clackamas County has been through one of the most difficult years in recent memory. We have been strong and resilient, and now beginning to see a light at the end of the tunnel. One of my areas of focus as a county commissioner is economic development. Many of our residents and businesses have suffered financial hardship this past year, and I want to see that economic vitality return to our unincorporated communities, cities, and throughout the county. I am committed to working with county staff and our partners to support businesses, create family wage jobs, promote tourism, and attract entrepreneurs. Now more than ever, Clackamas County is open for business!



Commissioner  
Mark Shull

What is success in the coming year? To identify critical steps in moving toward building housing that people can qualify to purchase, and bringing our young people closer to owning a home. Continue to advocate for new roads to reduce congestion and improve livability, while opening up new commercial lands for employment opportunities. Be an advocate for the people and business by continuing to saying NO to new taxes. Encourage maximum transparency between the residents of the county and government. I will act in response to the will of the residents, families and businesses of the county. Success means in a year from now, the people of Clackamas County can see noticeable improvement in the quality of life and affordability of living in this county.



# #ClackCo Strong

How the county is recovering from three disasters in less than a year

Top: Members of the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing went door to door in rural areas to provide resources to people who had been without power for several days after February's ice storm.

Above: the ice storm left debris and damage all over Clackamas County.

Center: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office deputies helped evacuate more than 8,500 people during the wildfires.

Right: Clackamas Fire's Tammy Owens and other staff at the county's Emergency Operations Center got a mental health visit from Jazzi the golden retriever during a long-shift of wildfire recovery. The visit was thanks to Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis Response.

Individually, we helped our neighbors, and as a county, we never stopped working.

In a year when the entire world suffered great losses, our community was hit especially hard, facing three major disasters in just 11 months.

As we struggled with the fallout from the pandemic, we experienced immense wildfires in the fall and a debilitating winter storm shortly after. The county has been steadily working behind the scenes to help Clackamas County residents and business owners stay healthy and safe during these tense times.

So what does it mean for a community to go through so many challenges in a short time, and how do we move on from here?

"I have seen great resilience in our residents," said Nancy Bush, director of the county's Disaster Management Department. "It has been a tough year, but I still see businesses, individuals and

groups moving forward and trying to find the good during a difficult season for our community."

### Command central

The first COVID-19 case in Oregon was discovered on Feb. 28, 2020 at a school in Lake Oswego. That same weekend, the county activated its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Led by the county's Disaster Management Department, the county typically activates one to two times a year to respond to targeted local flooding and minor landslides, most of which run their course with the EOC deactivating in three weeks or less. Since the EOC was activated in February of last year, it has remained up, making this the longest period the EOC has ever been active in Clackamas.

The people staffing the EOC – skilled employees from a variety of departments throughout the county — have had a tremendous impact on the health and recovery of Clackamas County. During the past year, they've implemented free mobile showers,

laundry centers, warming shelters, and mental health support, and provided everything from small business grants to personal protective gear.

Sometimes their work was on a large scale – advocating with the state and federal government to get more money and more vaccines. Other times, their work was small and personal – securing transportation and a hotel room for someone who needs to quarantine from COVID exposure but has nowhere to go.

Many of the county employees working in the EOC are also Clackamas County residents who have continued working through it all — COVID-19 surges, wildfire evacuations and the ice storm.

"Being hit over and over again by crisis has been difficult in many ways," Bush said of the hard-working EOC staff. "In all three disasters, many of the responders were victims of the event or had family members who were victims. Many were exhausted from having to deal with their personal life impacts and were still coming in to the EOC to

respond and help our residents."

### A lifeline for businesses

The statewide closures from the pandemic hit local businesses hard, and the county responded by providing scholarships, partnerships, equipment, zoning waivers and more than \$5 million in grants to help businesses stay afloat.

"You have extended to me a lifeline to keep me in business," said grant recipient John Staylor of Full Fast Technology. "Your grant will pay the bills and keep me rolling."

In addition to financial support, the county responded to businesses with creative solutions. One innovative tool was a "Who's Open" map and website. By filling out a short online form, businesses trying to serve customers could announce how they were adapting to COVID-19 restrictions – such as switching to take-out orders or initiating contactless pickup. The Who's Open app helped more than 400 businesses share their changing hours, products and services with the community.

[www.clackamas.us/business/whos-open](http://www.clackamas.us/business/whos-open). Read more about the services the county provided to businesses on page 15.

### Fire and ice

Major windstorms on Labor Day led to the most significant wildfires our community has seen in decades. Within 48 hours, nearly the entire southern half of the county was asked to evacuate. Within 72 hours, the evacuation line was on the border of some of our most populous cities — Wilsonville, Oregon City and Happy Valley — threatening the lives, homes and properties of thousands of people.

Immediately, the county leapt to action, designing an evacuation map and going door to door to alert residents about the impending danger.

Clackamas County Sheriff's Office deputies knocked on more than 8,500 doors to let people know they had to evacuate within the first 72 hours of the county's emergency declaration. Throughout the first few days of the wildfires, the Sheriff's Office patrolled



Clackamas County Sheriff's Office rescued stranded motorists after February's storm.

evacuation areas, checked in on 119 people, investigated 29 missing people and responded to nearly 1,500 calls.

Clackamas County road crews worked around the clock to help fire crews, keep the roads clear for evacuees and repair fire damage to the county road system.

Once people evacuated, the county faced a new challenge: getting timely information to people who didn't have reliable access to the internet or a phone.

"We have learned that communication to our rural areas in particular needs enhancement, and we need assistance from communities to help us to determine the best way to do that," Bush said.

In February of this year, the county faced another disaster – a devastating winter ice storm that hit the county harder than anywhere else in the region. At the height of the storm, 240,000 Portland General Electric customers were without power within Clackamas County alone, and many residents' power stayed off for an entire week. C-COM, the county's emergency dispatch center, received more than 9,000 calls, and some employees slept in their offices so they could be onsite to serve the public.

When the storm hit, sheriff's deputies

tirelessly responded to weather-related traffic crashes, rescued stranded motorists, conducted welfare checks, and grabbed chainsaws to begin clearing roadways.

County road crews worked around the clock to keep snow and ice covered emergency routes passable along with clearing downed trees and coordinating with PGE to aid in power restoration efforts.

To aid in providing high-risk residents with everything they needed to survive the long-term outages, the county requested the State of Oregon to send help through the National Guard, a first for our county. Together, Clackamas County Sheriff's deputies, search and rescue volunteers and the Oregon Air National Guard's 142nd Wing went door to door in rural areas to check on residents and deliver life-saving supplies including food, water and batteries.

With thousands of downed trees crisscrossing public and private property, the county's road crews worked around the clock to clear as many roads as possible – a necessity so the electric utilities could have unencumbered access to get the power turned back on. Roads crews even teamed up with a Sheriff's Office deputy to help rescue stranded U.S. Postal



A car drives through the charred area near the Doty fire.

workers who were stuck in blizzard conditions on Marmot Road.

In addition to the roads crews, Water Environment Services employees made sure the wastewater treatment facilities kept working despite power outages.

"I'd like to celebrate the hard-working staff who toiled around the clock at Clackamas Water Environment Services to protect public health at all of our district's five facilities and more than 20 pump stations, despite power outages, freezing rain, falling trees and torrents of relentless wet weather," wrote Diana Helm, former Damascus mayor and chair of the WES Advisory Committee, in an op-ed to The Clackamas Review.

**Emotional support**

With an ongoing crisis as long as this pandemic, compounded with natural disasters, county officials are looking for the best ways to provide mental health support, knowing that sometimes the people who need it most are unable to seek it out.

With a 24-hour crisis line and teams that go to events and are on-call, the county's Behavioral Health Division is continually adapting to the needs of individuals and families struggling with anxiety, unemployment, grief and panic.

"The idea is to provide psychological

first aid rather than therapy or case management," said Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, a supervisor with Behavioral Health. "Our staff is able to meet people where they are at."

For a full list of services, go to [www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/mentalhealth](http://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/mentalhealth) to explore some of the ways you or a loved one can receive support today.

**In this together**

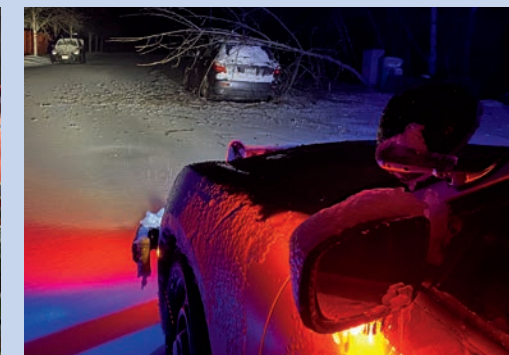
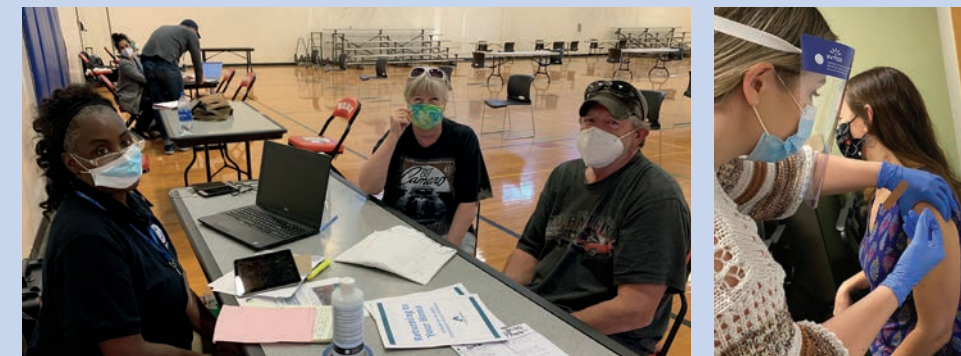
The most significant indicator of a resilient community is one that works together. Despite all the challenges we've faced, Clackamas County residents continue to show their empathy toward one another by offering a warm shower to a neighbor without power, helping clear debris, checking in on the elderly and wearing their masks and washing their hands.

"Clackamas County residents are fighters, and it's obvious when you drive around our communities," Bush said. "So many communities reacted quickly to help their neighbors. Looking out for one another is so critical in a disaster, and this is the way we will recover the fastest."

Learn about emergencies in your community. Sign up for #ClackCo PublicAlerts at: [www.clackamas.us/dm/publicalerts](http://www.clackamas.us/dm/publicalerts)

**County continues to support the community during recovery of COVID-19, the wildfires and ice storm**

We're fortunate to live in communities where so many people helped strangers, friends and families during some of the most trying times in recent memory. Our county did the same.



# #ClackCo Strong

## PANDEMIC, WILDFIRE, STORM



### Sheriff's Office serves in time of historic need



**Above:** During the February 2021 ice storm, deputies cleared trees and car accidents and performed a large-scale welfare-check operation. **Below left:** From April-June, the Community Care Initiative — a hardworking group of community and agency partners and volunteers — helped thousands of people impacted during the pandemic, distributing over 65,000 pounds of food. **Below right:** During the September 2020 wildfires, deputies performed over 8,500 door-to-door evacuations and patrolled heavily in evacuated areas.



## Vehicle registration fee supports local road projects



With warmer, drier weather coming, Clackamas County is planning for an active road construction season with work

on projects funded with revenue from the county's first countywide vehicle registration fee (VRF). The county's portion of the VRF revenue goes into the Community Road Fund to be used exclusively for road projects to relieve congestion, increase safety and improve pavement on local roads.

#### Community Road Fund projects planned for 2021 include:

- Safety improvements at 282nd and Haley in Damascus, Bob Schumacher and Causey Rd in Happy Valley, Johnson Creek Blvd at Bell and at Linwood in Milwaukie

- Paving local roads in the Arista, Thiessen and Webster areas of Oak Grove
- Design work on congestion relief projects planned for construction in future years on Stafford Road, Redland Road, Duus Road / Eagle Creek Road in the Estacada area, and Canby-Marquam Highway at Lone Elder Rd in the Canby area

The \$30-per-year VRF, which became effective in January 2020, is planned to continue at the same level to support needed road projects for years.

The fee was projected to generate approximately \$11.3 million per year, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, actual revenues for 2020 came in lower than projected. However, much of the deferred revenue will be received once all registrations are brought up to date.

#### In accordance with state law, the VRF revenue is divided as follows:

- 50% for the county to use on its roads for congestion relief, safety improvements and local road paving projects, tracked through a new Community Road Fund (CRF) program
- 10% for the county that is going into a Strategic Investment Fund to be used jointly with cities on road transfers and transportation projects of mutual interest
- 40% for cities to use on their roads as they determine, distributed based on population

Find more information, visit [www.clackamas.us/transportation/crf](http://www.clackamas.us/transportation/crf)

## Teens contribute to distracted driving campaign

Teens and driving often go hand in hand, and a local high school student recently created artwork to emphasize the importance of driving safely.

Molalla High School's Kenzie Prock recently won a teen art contest the county puts on every other year in cooperation with State Farm Insurance. Her "Stay Attentive" artwork is the centerpiece behind this year's Drive To Zero campaign. The campaign's goal is to educate teenagers through presentations at schools, participation in regional fairs and supporting driver education in local schools.

The county organizes the campaign to help reach its goal of eliminating serious and fatal traffic crashes by 2035, hence the Drive to Zero campaign name.

Visit [www.drivetozero.org](http://www.drivetozero.org) to see all contest artwork by Wilsonville High School's Carly Shanklin, Lake Oswego



Driving at a safe speed is highlighted in poster design by artist Carly Shanklin from Wilsonville High School.

High School's Tirzah Vest, Sandy High School's Gillian Moore and Rex Putnam High School's Kyra Schulz.

Invite Drive to Zero to your school: Presentations for public and private schools in Clackamas County can be

scheduled by emailing [drivetozero@clackamas.us](mailto:drivetozero@clackamas.us). Presentations are available in person or through a pre-recorded video for schools using distant learning tools.

**32,057** teen drivers in the county (age 15-20) eligible to drive.

updated 2018 Census Data



More than 1,000 Clackamas residents have signed our safe driving pledge. Add your name at [www.drivetozero.org](http://www.drivetozero.org)



## Road paving season starts in July

With summer just around the corner, you'll be seeing more road workers improving county roads.

Easily visible by their orange safety attire and signage, road crews will be working on projects and directing traffic to move you safely and efficiently through our work zones. And while waiting a few minutes or slowing down as you approach these areas may be inconvenient, following directions of the signs or staff directing traffic through these zones saves lives.

### Paving main roads

This year's scheduled pavement preservation program includes more than five miles of roads in unincorporated Clackamas County, including in the following large areas:

- Boring: Four miles
- Oak Grove: One mile (paid for by the Community Road Fund)
- Oatfield: Half mile (paid for by the Community Road Fund)

Thanks to the Community Road Fund (CRF) that is made up of revenue from the countywide vehicle registration fee, we are able to pave more miles this year. The county dedicates a portion of the CRF to improving the condition of low-traffic residential streets by paving local roads every year, like the Oak Grove and

Oatfield areas this summer. Visit [www.clackamas.us/roads/workprogram.html](http://www.clackamas.us/roads/workprogram.html) for specific road sections in the areas listed above.

The Community Road Fund is also making our roads safer with low-cost safety improvements and with congestion relief projects; read the article on page 9 for more or visit [www.clackamas.us/transportation/crf](http://www.clackamas.us/transportation/crf).

### The daily grind

County crews work diligently to care for our roadways every day, rain or shine. This winter, our crews worked 24-hour shifts to prepare roads for storms and clear them of snow and debris. We also kept emergency routes open and closed roads for our utility partners to get power back on for our customers during and after the snow storm.

This summer our crews will continue routine maintenance — cutting back trees, brush and other vegetation to improve sight distance; filling in ruts at road shoulders and digging ditches to move water away from the road foundation; and inspecting guardrails, traffic signs, culverts and storm sewers for needed repairs. Crews will also dig out and repave patches of rough pavement and seal cracks on roads that will be paved in future years to reduce further road deterioration and prevent damage to vehicles.

## Roads Roundup

### Come take a ride on the ferry

If you need a reason to get outside and do something different, consider taking a ride on the Canby Ferry. Crossing the Willamette River between Canby and Wilsonville is a great way to enjoy a piece of history.

The Canby Ferry runs every day from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. except on major holidays, when the water level rises to 70 or higher, or during inclement weather. A one-way fare is \$5 per vehicle, and only \$2 for motorcycles, bicycles and pedestrians. Ferry riders can receive a discount by purchasing 20-ride punch passes. For more information, visit [www.bit.ly/canbyferry](http://www.bit.ly/canbyferry), or call the information line at 503-650-3030.

### Clearing trees and brush keeps everyone safe

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 travelers 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.

### Let us know if you see road problems

Please let us know if you see road concerns such as missing stop signs, traffic signals that aren't working, obstructions in the road or potholes so our skilled professionals can fix the issue. Report your concerns:

- [www.bit.ly/roadconcern](http://www.bit.ly/roadconcern)
- 503-557-6391
- [RoadConcerns@clackamas.us](mailto:RoadConcerns@clackamas.us)

# County road projects will improve safety and reduce traffic congestion

This year, Clackamas County's Department of Transportation & Development (DTD) is moving forward on several road construction projects designed to increase safety, reduce traffic congestion and/or repair damages and lower maintenance costs.

Funded through the County Road Fund and state road funds, projects scheduled for major county roads include:

### 242nd Ave/Borges Road Realignment, Boring Area



This project will adjust the alignment and road grade at the 242nd Ave/Borges Road intersection to improve safety.

Work scheduled: August to Oct. 2021

### 232nd Drive Landslide Repairs, Barton Area



Heavy rains caused a portion of 232nd Drive to sink and created large cracks in the pavement. This project will install a deep patch

of pavement and improve drainage capacity. It will also ensure a reliable connection to OR 224 and OR 212, and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

Work scheduled: June - August 2021

### Central Point Road and New Era Road Intersection Realignment, Oregon City area



This realignment of Central Point Road along the northbound and southbound approaches to New Era Road will eliminate the

skewed angles of the intersection and improve the sight distance for drivers. The installation of flashing red lights attached to the stop signs will also improve safety.

Work scheduled: June - December 2021

### Sunnyside Road ADA Ramps (122nd Ave to 162nd Ave), Happy Valley Area



This project will install curb ramps that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at each intersection

between 122nd Ave and 162nd Ave.

The project will also improve access to traffic signal push buttons for pedestrians.

Work scheduled: June 2021 - June 2022

## Projects beyond 2021

While some projects are under construction this year, others are being designed for future years, including:

**Bear Creek (Canby-Marquam Hwy) Bridge Replacement:** Reconstruct the bridge to provide a reliable route and to reduce maintenance costs.

**Canby-Marquam Hwy at Lone Elder Road Intersection:** Reconstruct the intersection and add a northbound left-turn lane to reduce wait times at Lone Elder Road and improve safety. Funded by the Community Road Fund.

**Jennings Ave from Hwy 99E to Oatfield Road:** Construct a sidewalk on the north side, and bicycle lanes on both sides to connect residents to businesses and transportation options, and to provide safe routes for students.

**Lolo Pass Road, US 26 to Muddy Fork Road:** Stabilize the riverbank and preserve the road surface to protect from future flood damage and to preserve access to the national forest.

**South End Road Landslide Repairs:** Stabilize the roadway and slope near Coffee Creek to prevent future slides.

These vital road improvement projects reflect the county's commitment to protect public health, maintain a reliable transportation system, reduce traffic and improve safety for all.

To learn more about these projects, future projects, road closures and delays, timelines for construction, and project funding information including additional projects funded with revenue from the countywide vehicle registration fee, visit:

[www.clackamas.us/engineering/construction.html](http://www.clackamas.us/engineering/construction.html)

# Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) strengthens infrastructure for customers



**WES upgrades Kellogg Creek facility**

Kellogg Creek Water Resource Recovery facility in Milwaukie.

WES recently completed major upgrades at its Kellogg Creek Water Resource Recovery facility that will increase efficiency and odor control.

First brought online in 1974, the Kellogg Creek facility provides wastewater treatment services for WES customers in Happy Valley, Johnson City, Milwaukie and unincorporated areas of Clackamas County. Each day, the facility cleans nearly seven million gallons of wastewater.

WES made increased odor control a top priority among the improvements that began in 2017. Other upgrades include the replacement of pipes, pumps, and electrical systems with energy-efficient equipment.

Additional planned refurbishments include upgrading the disinfection system and the solids treatment part of the facility. "It's just like maintaining your house. If you don't take care of things, the problems get more expensive," said Lynne Chicoine, WES capital program manager. "We are just fixing up our house in order to be a better neighbor."



Kellogg Creek Operations Supervisor Joshua Clark inspects recently installed equipment.



**WES prioritizes reduction of inflow and infiltration**

WES Technician Kevin Rotrock uses closed-circuit television cameras to search for leaks in sewer pipes associated with Inflow & Infiltration.

WES has identified the reduction of inflow and infiltration (I & I) as a top priority to prevent costly capacity upgrades and repairs to keep rates low for its more than 190,000 customers.

I & I is rainwater or groundwater that seeps into cracked sewer pipes or water that enters pipes through improper connections. I & I increases the amount of flow to WES' wastewater treatment facilities where it is unnecessarily treated. It also increases the risk of sanitary sewer overflows, puts added strain on equipment causing costly damages and replacements, and results in higher energy costs.

WES is pursuing a regional approach to the I & I problem with the cities. WES' Sanitary Sewer Master Plan finds that reducing I & I by 65% in targeted sub-basins by 2040 would save \$120 million.

WES owns more than 360 miles of sewer pipes. Several cities within the WES service area including Gladstone, Happy Valley, Johnson City, Oregon City, Milwaukie, and West Linn own their sewer systems that deliver wastewater to WES' treatment facilities.

WES recently supported proposals by Gladstone and Oregon City to reduce I & I in their city-maintained sewer systems. WES also worked with Gladstone to conduct pipe leak detection tests on Gladstone's sanitary sewer system.

For more information, visit [www.clackamas.us/wes](http://www.clackamas.us/wes)



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# Discover Clackamas County Parks



As you head out to enjoy your County Parks this season, please note the following changes that took effect this year to help keep up with the rising cost of maintaining park facilities and providing customer service:

- Daily parking fee remains at \$6/day on all days except for Saturdays and Sundays, May-September, when the fee is \$8 because of higher demand.
- Camping fees increased:
  - Primitive/Standard from \$22 to \$26/night
  - Partial Hookup from \$28 to \$34/night
  - Reservation/Cancellation/Change from \$8 to \$10/transaction

Find the full list of approved fees and more information at [www.clackamas.us/parks](http://www.clackamas.us/parks)

## Pressure Washing and Surface Cleaning Tips to Protect our Water

Although convenient for cleaning surfaces and equipment, pressure washing can send dirty runoff containing oil, soap, chemicals, metals, and sediment into the storm drain system. Most storm drains have zero to minimal treatment and drain directly toward the surface water and groundwater we all need to protect.

### What can you do?

1. Use dry cleanup methods first (sweep, blow, vacuum). Dispose of debris in the trash.
2. Soak up oil and fluids using absorbents (cat litter, sawdust, sand) and dry-cleanup methods before washing. This, too, goes in the trash.
3. Direct dirty runoff into a lawn or landscaped area away from the storm drain system. (If wash water cannot be directed to landscaped areas, collect for disposal to the sanitary sewer via a clean out, toilet, or sink.)
4. Follow EPA lead paint guidelines if pre-1978 era paint is involved.

Learn more at [www.clackamas.us/wes/education](http://www.clackamas.us/wes/education)



## No small business left behind

### A look at innovative centers leading the road to economic recovery in Clackamas County

From fire to ice, multiple historic crises have beset our community throughout the last year — but none have been felt as deeply by local businesses as the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clackamas County is a microcosm of the economic challenges facing the nation, making the need to help businesses here at home a top priority.

“The length of the shutdown alone has been surprising and wearing,” said Oregon City Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Victoria Meinig. “Those [businesses] who were prepared for a small emergency could not have foreseen needing to cover such an extended amount of time or the cost associated with adapting their way of doing business.”

When money became available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act last fall, the county’s Business and Community Services Economic Development division quickly partnered with seven area chambers of commerce

to pioneer an innovative response to the economic downturn.

To start, six business recovery centers were set up to support the short- and long-term needs of local small businesses. Modeled after a concept in Washington County (and other parts of the country) where centers help businesses in finding resources such as disaster loans, Clackamas County’s centers take it further. They act as one-stop-shops for recovery assistance, and are run by chambers located across the county in Canby, Lake Oswego/West Linn, North Clackamas, Oregon City, Sandy and Wilsonville.

Chambers were nimble in getting the program off the ground, leveraging community connections and hiring staff to perform outreach to local businesses. They set up the centers in their existing office spaces, provided most services virtually and helped hundreds of businesses connect with professional consultants to meet their new legal, financial and marketing needs. Businesses can turn to these centers for a variety of customized support, whether it’s for personal protective equipment, translation services, information on grant funding and training, or navigating COVID-19 regulations.



Left: Kyle Lang from the Canby Business Recovery Center drops off personal protective equipment to local businesses.

Above: Staff from World HeARTs Fair Trade stops by the center in Oregon City to pick up personal protective equipment.

Within the first month of operation, the centers reached 30% of approximately 22,000 businesses in the county, covering 1,879 square miles across 25 incorporated cities, towns or census designated areas.

The collaboration marks an exciting milestone not just for the county, but for local chambers of commerce. For the first time, the various chambers joined forces to serve not just the businesses in their immediate areas, but those across the county.

“Seven chambers have never worked on one sole project like that,” said Meinig, noting the unique opportunity to provide countywide support.

The centers continue to be an integral piece in helping businesses recover, even as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease. The centers will be open through at least June 2021, and have the potential to directly contact around 18,000 businesses and provide services for more than 2,000 small businesses within a four-month timeframe.

Learn more about the business recovery centers at [www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/business](http://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/business)



# Clackamas County: Our history of equity, diversity and inclusion

National events continue to shine a much-needed light on the importance of the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI). Clackamas County wholeheartedly values and supports these principles. The following history of actions demonstrate our evolution in this work. It is Clackamas County's hope to reinforce the importance of our principles and actions. We know we have more work to do and invite residents to join us at advancing equity and inclusion.

## 2004: Leaders for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council (LEDIC) created

A volunteer advisory council to commissioners, LEDIC acts as a liaison to the county on EDI matters. Public residents examine county processes to better foster equity of services and greater inclusiveness, develop leadership from diverse communities, and increase community participation. "As a member of LEDIC, I hope to help the county be more proactive and less reactive around EDI issues," states Tory Blackwell. "A county equipped with the proper tools and resources to support everyone is a county that has the tools to evolve as our demographics and associated needs evolve."

## 2010: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Council (EDIC) created

The employee-run EDIC improves county efforts to hire, train and retain a diverse workforce. Members strive to understand, value and incorporate the contributions each employee brings to build a welcoming, inclusive workplace.

## 2011: Community Festival

Clackamas County holds its first (now annual) Community Festival, a family event celebrating our region's rich regional culture and heritage. It is a day of honor, awareness and celebration.

## 2012: First EDI resolution

Commissioners adopt their first *Resolution Valuing Diversity*, establishing access for all residents to county services as a priority, and establishing dedicated positions focused on these principles, including an executive-level diversity director position. Further, the resolution initiated employee networking groups, encouraging employees of similar backgrounds to come together and recommend county actions.

## 2015: Equal pay

Commissioners adopt a *Resolution in the Matter of Affirming Equal Pay for Women*, which both affirmed the principle of equal pay and encouraged other organizations to do the same.

## 2015: Follow-up EDI resolution

Commissioners pass another *Resolution Valuing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*, expanding on their original declaration to include two additional, important principles. The action incorporates EDI values into every aspect of county governance, operations, and services rendered.

## 2015: Portland PRIDE

Clackamas County participates in the Portland Pride Parade for the first time, and has every year since. Through this action, we learn from our LGBTQ community and pledge our commitment to acknowledge their history, support their needs, and affirm our shared goals. This participation was spurred by a county worker-led employee networking group (see

2012) – the Queers-and-Allies (Q&A) – established in 2014.

## 2017: Inclusive Restrooms

Clackamas County restrooms – previously labeled gender specific – were opened to all individuals to self-select the one that most closely fit their



#ClackCo's Equity and Inclusion Office: Csea Leonard, Martine Coblentz and Maria Magallon

gender identity. This was an inclusive stance on a national issue critical to the LGBTQ community. "I have experienced harassment in restrooms throughout my life," stated Kelly Blixhavn, a Q&A member who worked on the initiative. "It was important to me to advocate for the right that trans and gender non-conforming employees and community members have to use facilities that correspond with their gender identity."

## 2017: Immigration stance

Commissioners pass a *Resolution Affirming Clackamas County as a Welcoming and Inclusive County* by providing stability, opportunity, safety,

and justice for everyone living and working in the county. This was a direct reaction to federal actions related to immigration and customs enforcement activity.

## 2019: Performance Clackamas

Commissioners codify EDI within the

disregards their life

- Review all county policies/ordinances for any discriminatory impacts and practices (a team is currently reviewing County Code)
- Engage in listening/learning opportunities with communities of color to learn of their experiences (Clackamas County has held several sessions with more planned)

## June 2020: Juneteenth

Commissioners pass a resolution codifying Juneteenth permanently as a county holiday, encouraging all residents and stakeholders to observe it as a day of remembrance and celebration.

## July 2020: Equity and Inclusion Office

A culmination of efforts initiated before 2020, Clackamas County establishes a new leadership structure that better supports advancing EDI. This includes creating a three-person Office of Equity and Inclusion, responsible for building the county EDI capacity and delivering equitable outcomes throughout our programs, budgets, decision making, and service delivery. (Read more in the sidebar story.) Further, yearly EDI training is now planned for all employees, and all vacant county positions require open, external-facing recruitments (with limited exception).

## 2021: Enhancing employee groups

Clackamas County is taking steps to buttress its support of employee-led workgroups that bring meaningful value to our EDI efforts (like those that started our Portland Pride participation).

county's overarching Performance Clackamas strategic plan. The principles are set as a lens through which all policy is made and county operations are conducted.

## June 2020: Resolution condemning violence and racism

After George Floyd's killing, commissioners pass a *Resolution Condemning Violence and Racism Directed at Black, African Americans and all People of Color*, that resolved to, among other actions:

- Not tolerate treatment of People of Color that degrades their dignity or

## Interview with Martine Coblentz

Equity and Inclusion Officer Martine Coblentz has extensive experience bridging understanding for people with diverse backgrounds. We caught up with her to ask about heading the #ClackCo Equity and Inclusion Office, which started last year. For an extended Q-and-A with Martine, visit [bit.ly/EIOinterview](https://bit.ly/EIOinterview).

### Why is there a need for this office?

Clackamas County recognizes the historical and current structures that perpetuate inequities and have deep impacts on our entire community. People are differently situated given their race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicities, age, social economic status, national origin, disability and other intersections of identity. The county is working to be responsive to meet these needs, given the inequities, and we are here to recognize and uplift the lived realities and experiences of people.

### What is the office's purpose?

We will lead a culture of learning and awareness of equity and inclusion by guiding, supporting and collaborating with employees and residents to foster welcoming communities. We will create greater connections where all people thrive and belong. It is the responsibility of all county employees to serve residents while holding to our values of diversity, equity and inclusion.

### If you could say one thing to residents who have felt marginalized, what would it be?

We are very sorry to hear this has happened to you. You matter and are valued at Clackamas County for who you are and all you bring. You can always come talk to us if you would like to have a place to process what happened and/or want to know what options you have moving forward.

New look,  
same rules!

# Recycle Guide

Available in  
7 languages  
online!

Your guide to what goes where in Clackamas County.  
View a more extensive guide at [www.clackamas.us/recycling/recycleguide.html](http://www.clackamas.us/recycling/recycleguide.html)

## Recycling

Reciclaje  
Утиль  
Rác Tái chế  
回收



Plastic bottles, plastic round containers, metal, paper & cardboard  
Empty & Dry • Plastics must be 6 oz or larger • Do not bag recycling

## Glass

In separate  
glass bin

Vidrio    Стекло    Rác Thủy tinh    玻璃



Bottles & jars only,  
empty & dry, no lids

Missing a glass bin? Call your garbage & recycling company.

## Yard Waste

Desechos de jardinería    Хозяйственные отбросы    Rác Sân Vườn    庭院废物



Leaves, grass,  
small branches,  
plants & trimmings

Cities of Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, and Wilsonville may include food scraps.

## Garbage

Basura  
Mycop    Rác còn lại  
垃圾



All garbage, including plastic bags, to-go containers, lids & packaging

Motor Oil: Put in a labeled, screw-top container and set next to your glass bin. Residential only.

For more recycling, disposal, and donation options:

Metro's Recycling Information Center • 503-234-3000 • [www.oregonmetro.gov/findarecyclor](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/findarecyclor)

Clackamas County Sustainability & Solid Waste • 503-557-6363 • [www.clackamas.us/recycling](http://www.clackamas.us/recycling)

Instagram @recycleornot



## Home composting

Which method is right for you?

It's no secret compost can support a healthy yard and garden by turning your food waste into nutrients, keeping valuable resources out of the landfill. It's also relatively easy to create your own compost at home. Perhaps you've thought about doing so but are concerned about the amount of space you have, the amount of effort, or the materials you want to compost. Luckily, there are many different ways to compost. Which method is right for you?

### Composting basics

- "Brown" materials, like fall leaves and woody materials. These are high in carbon, an essential energy source for microorganisms in the compost.
- "Green" materials, like grass clippings, fruit, and vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds,

and eggshells. These are high in nitrogen, an essential nutrient for the decomposer organisms.

### • Air & Water

Mix two-parts "brown" materials to one-part "green." Chopping materials into smaller pieces will create compost quicker. Keep your compost pile damp like a wrung-out sponge by adding dry or moist materials, or sprinkling with a water hose when needed. Turn the material periodically to introduce air into the pile.

### No-fuss composting

For the "I don't want to think about it too much" gardener, this is the easiest method and requires little space (about 3 feet by 3 feet). If only composting yard waste, you can compost in a pile or a simple holding bin made of wire mesh and salvaged lumber in the sun

or shade. If adding fruit and vegetable trimmings, you should use a rodent-resistant bin. Simply chop all materials into the bin or pile as you generate them, remembering to mix in the moist green materials. You should have usable compost at the bottom of the pile within four to twelve months.

### Hot composting

For the gardener who wants their compost faster, this method requires a bit more effort, space, and sun but kills weed seeds and plant diseases. Have two bins you can easily access for turning. Mix alternating layers of brown and green materials and dampen the pile as you go. If you have enough high-nitrogen (green) materials, the pile's temperature should increase. At that point, turn and mix the materials into the second bin. Repeat several times, adding water if the material seems dryer than a damp sponge. You should have usable compost within one to three months.

### Worm bins

For the apartment dweller, worm bins can compost food waste using red worms. The worms live within a suitable bedding material such as leaves, and eat about one pound of food scraps per week. You can easily make their home from a plastic storage bin.

### Want to know more?

Metro provides more information on all the above composting methods. Learn more at [bit.ly/metrocomposting](http://bit.ly/metrocomposting).

## Sign up for service alerts!



Weekly reminders



Service alerts only



View & print your calendar

Visit [www.clackamas.us/recycling/garbage/company](http://www.clackamas.us/recycling/garbage/company)

Plastic-padded envelopes belong in the trash.

[RecycleOrNot.org](http://RecycleOrNot.org)





## Update brings changes to popular green business program



Clackamas County's Leaders in Sustainability recognition program guides workplaces through proven green practices to improve environmental performance, enhance operational efficiency, and better engage with both employees and the public.

To support businesses seeking certification, the county offers one-on-one consultations and technical assistance at no cost.

Originally developed in 2015, Leaders in Sustainability has helped numerous workplaces, representing thousands of employees in total in Clackamas County, to rethink "business as usual" — measuring their success according to the broader triple bottom line of financial, environmental, and social benefits.

2021 brings a significant overhaul to Leaders in Sustainability. Not only is

the list of green practices refreshed and expanded, but the basic requirements to earn certification are more flexible. Workplaces can now pick the green practices that mean the most to them across a range of categories, customizing the path they take. The three levels of certification — Certified, Silver, and Gold — simply require different numbers of completed practices.

The updated application includes nine categories of best practices:

- **Policy & Employee Engagement** strategies to incorporate sustainability into decision-making (for example, a green purchasing policy) and to educate staff.
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** to eliminate preventable waste, make the most of existing materials, and recycle beyond the basics.
- **Energy** savings to reduce utility costs and promote renewable energy.
- **Water Conservation** methods such as low-flow plumbing fixtures and drought-resistant landscaping.
- **Water Quality** practices to protect our streams and rivers.

- **Hazardous Materials Management** to protect staff and prevent toxic pollution.
- **Transportation** practices to save fuel and promote transportation options.
- **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion** considerations to bring a variety of points of view to the sustainable business community and to build staff awareness.
- **Community Engagement** strategies to strengthen connections with communities and involve staff in volunteer projects.

There are additional best practices to support industries such as food businesses or manufacturers.

Adding equity and inclusion practices enriches the certification's focus on meeting our community, economic, and environmental needs. Workplaces of all sizes benefit from efforts to ensure that all customers and employees are heard, understood, welcomed, and treated equitably. Including stakeholders of all kinds, across our rural, suburban, urban, and demographic diversity means a more vibrant and sustainable local business community.

The new flexibility for certification may not only lead to more certified businesses, but also means introducing practices that benefit employees at home and providing more value for customers. Finally, businesses that demonstrate commitments to sustainability often improve their recruiting and retention. The benefit of certifying as a Leader in Sustainability is tangible and broad.

When your business, or one you support, is ready to explore certification, the application is online at [bit.ly/leaderinsustainability](http://bit.ly/leaderinsustainability). You can also connect with a sustainability advisor by calling 503-742-4458.

## RECYCLING locations convenient to Clackamas County



Call site to confirm materials are still accepted and inquire about potential fees before making the trip.

KEY	Appliances - Lg. & Sm.	Batteries (Alkaline & Rechargeables)	TVs, Monitors & Computers	Glass Bottles & Jars	Household Hazardous Waste	Light bulbs, CFLs, Fluorescent tubes	Motor Oil	Paper & Cardboard	Plastic Bottles, Jugs & Tubs (no lids)	Styrofoam™ & #6 plastics	Scrap Metal / Metal	Tires	Yard Debris
✓ = No charge \$ = Fees required ✓/\$ = Fees required for specific items										✓			
<b>Agilyx</b> 13240 SW Wall St., Tigard 503-217-3160   <a href="http://agilyx.com">agilyx.com</a>													
<b>Clackamas County Transfer Station</b> 19600 SE Canyon Valley Rd., Sandy 503-260-1577	✓/\$		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	\$	
<b>K.B. Recycling</b> 9602 SE Clackamas Rd., Clackamas 503-659-7004 1600 SE 4th Ave., Canby 503-266-7903	✓/\$		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓		
<b>McFarlane's Bark</b> 13345 SE Johnson Rd., Milwaukie 503-659-4240   <a href="http://mcfarlanesbark.com">mcfarlanesbark.com</a>													\$
<b>Metro South Transfer Station</b> 2001 Washington St., Oregon City 503-234-3000   <a href="http://oregonmetro.gov">oregonmetro.gov</a>	✓/\$	\$	✓	✓	\$	\$	✓	✓	✓	\$	✓	\$	\$
<b>R.S. Davis Recycling, Inc.</b> 10105 SE Mather Rd., Clackamas 503-655-5433   <a href="http://portlandrecycling.com">portlandrecycling.com</a>	✓/\$	\$ household only	✓								✓		
<b>S &amp; H Landscaping Supplies</b> 20200 SW Stafford Rd., Tualatin 503-638-1011   <a href="http://shbark.com">shbark.com</a>											✓		\$
<b>Universal Recycling Technologies</b> 10151 SE Jennifer St., Clackamas 503-722-2236   <a href="http://urtsolutions.com">urtsolutions.com</a>		✓/\$	✓			✓/\$							
<b>Willamette Resources, Inc.</b> 10295 SW Ridder Rd., Wilsonville 503-570-0626	✓/\$		✓	✓				✓	✓		no lead		

### Paperwork required for construction waste at transfer stations!

To protect the health and safety of employees and customers, transfer stations screen all loads of remodeling, construction and demolition waste that may contain asbestos. Proper paperwork for loads with suspect materials is required from all customers.

Learn more about safe disposal of asbestos at [www.oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/asbestosrules).



**Deposit Containers**  
Return to BottleDrop Centers, retailers or grocery stores.  
[bottledropcenters.com](http://bottledropcenters.com)



**Sharps (Needles, Lancets, Syringes)**  
Take to the Metro South Hazardous Waste Facility, collection company, or check with your local pharmacy.



**Prescription Medications**  
Take medications to a free Drug Take Back Box location near you.  
[clackamas.us/healthcenters/takeback.html](http://clackamas.us/healthcenters/takeback.html)



**Oregon E-Cycles**  
Recycle computers, monitors, TVs, printers, keyboards and mice for free.  
[oregonecycles.org](http://oregonecycles.org)



**Plastic Bags and Wrap**  
Drop off for free at participating retail locations.  
[plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org)



**Paints and Stains**  
Drop off for free at PaintCare locations.  
[PaintCare.org](http://PaintCare.org)

Questions? Metro's Recycling Information Hotline: 503-234-3000 [OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler](http://OregonMetro.gov/FindaRecycler)

# Clackamas Water Environment Services technicians recover treasured family ring



Eleanor displays the recovered ring she accidentally dropped in a catch basin.

dropped a treasured family ring she had found in her mother’s purse into a catch basin.

“It was my Dad’s ring, and my Dad passed away the same day Eleanor was born,” said Eleanor’s mother, Emily Johnson.

Rotrock and Bodner quickly realized “it would be like finding a needle in a haystack.”

Bodner climbed into the catch basin and began handing up buckets full of rainwater and debris to Rotrock, who sifted through the debris but found nothing.

Finally, Bodner soaked up the last debris. “I picked up the towel, and there was the ring. It was the shining moment,” said Rotrock.

“They were amazing,” said Johnson. “They went above and beyond their job description.”



WES technicians Jeremy Bodner and Kevin Rotrock at the catch basin where they recovered the ring.

WES sanitary and stormwater technicians like Kevin Rotrock and Jeremy Bodner are kept busy maintaining WES’ network of sewer pipes and other vital infrastructure.

Rotrock and Bodner recently faced a unique challenge in Happy Valley, where a four-year-old girl named Eleanor had

# Climate action plan project moving forward

Climate change threatens our long-term health, prosperity and safety not only in Clackamas County, but across the state, country and planet.

That’s why in 2019 the Board of County Commissioners approved development of a climate action plan with recommendations to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The goal? To identify actions to eliminate negative contributions to climate change in Clackamas County, while decreasing everyone’s costs and improving our resiliency.

The result? A vibrant economy, improved health, protected lands, and a safe and thriving community.

The plan is scheduled to be developed and adopted by January 2023.

Here’s what is already underway:

- **Youth Advisory Task Force:** 24 young people (residents younger than 25) explore climate issues they find most pressing and help shape the plan.
- **Community Advisory Task Force:** This group brings perspectives and experiences from all corners of the county.
- **Research:** Our consultants have completed the initial analysis of carbon emissions from urban and rural areas throughout the county. This data will form the foundation for the climate action plan and understanding the impact of proposed actions.

To learn more, go to [www.clackamas.us/sustainability/climateaction](http://www.clackamas.us/sustainability/climateaction)



## What’s the problem with greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, which exist in certain amounts naturally, are called greenhouse gases (GHGs). GHG emissions act like a blanket, trapping heat around the earth. The more GHGs in the atmosphere, for example, from the burning of fossil fuels, the warmer the planet becomes, leading to changes in the climate. Human consumption of fossil fuels is responsible for most of these emissions. Changes in our climate from these GHG emissions have been taking place over the past few decades and accelerating in recent years.

# Your front line of defense in health, environment



WES Field Operations crew is your front line of defense when it comes to protecting public health and our shared environment.

Crew members can be seen in local neighborhoods performing maintenance on pipes and other equipment to ensure WES’ sewer collection system is effectively carrying wastewater to its treatment facilities.

They also monitor infrastructure that captures pollutants in stormwater runoff before it reaches area waterways.

Each year, WES crews inspect and clean more than 2,500 storm structures.

Since WES operates and maintains five wastewater treatment facilities, 23 pumping stations and more than 360 miles of sewer pipes, WES crew members are always ready 24/7 to perform repairs whenever needed.

WES’ rapid response approach recently focused on the Maddax Woods area of West Linn, where a WES pump station needed an emergency pipe replacement. Crew members monitored the failing pipe 24 hours a day to ensure service continued uninterrupted while overnight repairs were conducted.

WES worked closely with the City of West Linn’s Public Works staff and notified nearby residents about the temporary closure of the area.

Customers can notify WES about spills or discharges, or ask questions, by contacting WES Customer Service team at 503-742-4567 or [westcustomerservice@clackamas.us](mailto:westcustomerservice@clackamas.us)



WES crews recently responded to a failing pipe in the Maddax Woods area of West Linn and conducted overnight repairs while preventing service interruptions.

# The Hamlet of Beavercreek, Carus CPO unite for stronger community

The challenges of the past year have helped us recognize the importance of community. That’s why the recent unification of The Hamlet of Beavercreek and Carus Community Planning Organization (CPO) is so remarkable.

The Hamlet of Beavercreek has been a community group willing to pitch in and help each step of the way last year — including preparing sack lunches for students learning from home, moving livestock during the wildfire, and removing fallen trees during the ice storm. Additionally, they are continuing to meet virtually to make sure they still offer a community space for discussion and sharing.

This past year, hamlet members also listened to a call from neighbors in

the Carus area who were concerned they no longer had an active CPO. These community-led groups in unincorporated areas meet and provide feedback to the county on land use.

With a push to reactivate the Carus CPO, members voted unanimously to expand the boundaries of the Beavercreek Hamlet and combine it with the Carus CPO to ensure the communities had an active group to support their needs. The hamlet partnered with county staff to conduct outreach to Carus residents and met with the Board of County Commissioners to finalize the boundary change.

“Combining the Carus CPO with The Hamlet of Beavercreek will help connect more people with their county government,” said Katie Wilson, the

county’s community engagement coordinator. “Increasing opportunity for public participation is the best way to ensure county programs reflect the values and needs of the communities we serve.”

To learn more about The Hamlet of Beavercreek visit [beavercreek.org](http://beavercreek.org) or follow them on Facebook.

To learn more about the Clackamas County hamlet and CPO programs visit [www.clackamas.us/community](http://www.clackamas.us/community)

# New state senators address county issues

In accordance with state law, Clackamas County Commissioners recently appointed Bill Kennemer and Kayse Jama to fill vacant Oregon Senate seats.

Kennemer fills the District 20 seat following Alan Olsen's resignation. Jama assumes the District 24 seat vacated by Shemia Fagan after she was elected Oregon Secretary of State.



**Senator  
Bill Kennemer (R)**

District 20

**The 2020 wildfires burned 187,000 acres in Clackamas County. As a member of the Natural Resources & Wildfire Recovery Committee, what can you do to help prevent a repeat of this disaster?**

Some things we've already worked on in the committee include special permitting assistance and trying to provide for hazardous materials removal. We're going to have a couple of major bills on prevention and recovery.

As we rebuild, we need to look at defensible spaces and create policies that will probably involve a joint effort between the county and state.

**The county and state are working together to replace the 85-year-old County Courthouse. How would you characterize the shortcomings of the current building, and what do you view your role to be in this process?**

It doesn't meet safety requirements and it's not seismically sound. It's just plain old and inadequate. I'll be doing my fair share to ante up some money from the state and work with the county and joint venture to get it completed, hopefully in the near future.

**Since passage of the state transportation package in 2017, the bipartisan Clackamas Caucus has advocated for funding solutions for the I-205 Bottleneck Project, which includes retrofitting for the Abernethy Bridge. What will you do to ensure that this critical congestion relief project moves forward?**

These pinch points are serious problems for transportation and efficiency. When you've got people parked in traffic on the freeway, that's not good for pollution. We will look seriously at this huge bottleneck.



**Senator  
Kayse Jama (D)**

District 24

**Housing and homelessness are top priorities for Clackamas County Commissioners. As Chair of the Senate Committee on Housing and Development, which ideas do you support for improvement?**

There has been a huge gap in home ownership. In the black community, only about 35% own homes. The Latinx and Native American communities aren't far behind.

We also have to address tenants struggling to pay the rent, but we also need to support landlords. Homelessness is another crisis. Addressing these issues will be my top priority.

**The county and state are working to replace the 85-year old County Courthouse. How would you characterize the shortcomings of the current building, and what do you view your role to be in this process?**

I was invited by Judge (Kathie F.) Steele to tour the facility and was able to see how dilapidated the building is and how difficult it is for folks working there.

I made a commitment to Judge Steele and the community that I will support making sure we get the investment and funding necessary to build a new courthouse.

**You are the first Muslim and former refugee to serve in the legislature. How do you feel your lived experiences will help you serve?**

My lived experiences reflect the majority of the district's experience. People are struggling. We have a lot of low-income and working class community members. We need diversity of ideas, and we need diversity of experience. I will bring those experiences that I share with the community to Salem.



## Clackamas County looks to state, federal funding to lift key priorities

Local governments hope to benefit from a funding windfall in 2021. With Congress' passage of the American Rescue Plan Act in early March, local governments and the state of Oregon will receive millions of dollars directly from the federal government to support continued COVID-19 response and recovery. Oregon will receive \$780 million to reinvest throughout the state, and Clackamas County is expected to receive \$81.1 million.

Congress now sets its sights on passing a comprehensive infrastructure package and the return of congressionally directed spending, which could bring even more money to Oregon. At the state level, the Oregon Legislature is nearing the end of the legislative session where it will set the state's two-year budget, including funding for priority projects.

As these funding opportunities evolve, Clackamas County has been active virtually in Salem and Washington D.C., and building support with legislators and partners to ensure funding comes to our community.

The Courthouse Replacement Project remains the county's top funding

priority. This year, state matching funds for the project are included in the Governor's recommended budget being considered by the legislature. If successful, the county could receive \$94.5 million in bond funding to replace the aging county courthouse with a new building on the county's Red Soils campus.

The I-205 Bottleneck Project is also top of mind for Clackamas. The County continues to support efforts by the Oregon Department of Transportation to begin construction of seismic improvements on the Abernethy Bridge, crossing the Willamette River, and a third-lane addition, in each direction, between Stafford Road and OR 213. The project is expected to be shovel-ready by early next year, but no clear funding source has been identified to advance the project. State legislators are taking an active role in finding a creative solution to allow this critical project to move forward.

With many new state and federal funding resources available in 2021, the county has prioritized a number of other key projects for potential

funding, including:

- Community vision planning for the next phase of the Sunrise Gateway Corridor
- Replacement of the 128-year-old Bull Run Bridge, which provides critical access to drinking water for more than one-million residents in the Portland metropolitan area
- Safety improvements to the congested 65th and Elligsen/Stafford Road intersection
- Seismic and operational repairs to the Willamette Falls Locks
- Decommissioning of the failing Boring Treatment Plant and construction of a new pump station to support additional growth in this rural community
- A new Sandy health clinic, which will improve access to low-cost, quality healthcare for rural residents

To read the interviews of Senators Kennemer and Jama in their entirety, please visit:

[www.clackamas.us/news/new-state-senators-address-county-issues](http://www.clackamas.us/news/new-state-senators-address-county-issues)



# Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

## Information About Proposed Measure 3-566 on May 18, 2021 Ballot

*The current Public Safety Levy, approved in 2016, will expire on December 31, 2021. Proposed measure 3-566 would replace the expiring levy.*

If the proposed measure passes, the levy would be limited to a five-year fiscal period from 2022 through 2027.

Future proposed levies would not occur without voter approval.

If passed, the money that would be raised by the proposed measure would be used exclusively for the law enforcement purposes stated in the Ballot Title.



clackamas.us/sheriff/levy

### The proposed levy would continue funding for the following services:

- 84 jail beds in the Clackamas County Jail
- 30 Sheriff's jail deputies
- 18 Sheriff's patrol deputies
- Sheriff's specialized drug enforcement team

### The cost of proposed measure 3-566, if passed:

- If passed, proposed measure 3-566 would cost \$0.368 per \$1000 of assessed property value. The monthly cost would be approximately \$8.19 and the yearly cost would be approximately \$98.26 on a home with an assessed value of \$267,000.

### If passed, proposed measure 3-566 would:

- Maintain 84 jail beds in the Clackamas County Jail that were opened since the initial passage of the levy in 2006, in an effort to reduce the number of prisoners released early into the community;
- Provide funding to retain 30 current Sheriff's jail deputies;
- Open 26 mental health/medical jail beds by funding 6 additional Sheriff's jail deputies;
- Retain 18 current Sheriff's patrol deputies and add 16 Sheriff's patrol deputies responding to emergency calls for service and patrolling our roadways;
- Continue the Sheriff's specialized drug enforcement team to arrest drug traffickers and those involved in drug-related crimes such as identity theft, property crimes, child abuse, and child neglect;
- Add 5 Sheriff's detectives to investigate elder abuse, elder neglect cases, child abuse, child neglect cases, human trafficking, and felony crimes against persons;
- Implement and maintain a body-worn camera program; and
- Add 2 internal affairs investigators.

**If the proposed measure 3-566 does not pass, the proposed services would not be provided and the tax rate would not change.**

*The proposed measure would cost \$0.368 per \$1000 of assessed value (this is different than the real market value). The cost would be approximately \$8.19 per month, or \$98.26 per year, on a home with an assessed value of \$267,000 (the median assessed value of a home in Clackamas County). It is estimated the proposed measure would raise \$22.20 million in 2022-23, \$22.87 million in 2023-24, \$23.56 million in 2024-25, \$24.26 million in 2025-26, and \$24.99 million in 2026-27 if the measure passes.*

## How would you describe our county?

The diversity of Clackamas County makes for a beautiful place to live and a challenging place to talk about. How do we make decisions that benefit such a diverse group of people — urban, suburban, rural and wild — with different needs?

To better understand our county and our community, the county embarked on a project to uncover the DNA of what makes #ClackCo unique.

During this yearlong project, we've already surveyed and interviewed more than 1,000 people to get their thoughts about the county. The backbone of the work is not creating an identity, instead it's finding what's already here. The county hired an experienced branding firm, CivicBrand, to facilitate the uncovering, and we'll use the information from this work to streamline our communications efforts

so that our messages can be as effective as possible.

In our recent online survey, we found that more than 83.2% of respondents called Clackamas County an 'excellent' or 'good' place to live, nearly 67 percent said tourism is very important to the county and more than 45% said the

county is a good place to start a business.

There will be more opportunities to talk about what makes Clackamas County unique and how we can best serve our residents. To stay up to date on the project, visit [WeAreClackCo.com](http://WeAreClackCo.com) and sign up for our project newsletter.

## #ClackCo at a glance

418,187  
RESIDENTS



16 CITIES  
3 HAMLETS



227,363  
TOTAL JOBS



115,733  
FAMILIES

94,517  
STUDENTS



Coming this summer from the Department of Transportation & Development...

# Development Direct

We're here for you, from concept to completion!



We're putting the latest technology to work to provide developers, homeowners and businesses with people-first, online service for your development engineering and building permit needs.

- Wherever you are...
- Whenever it's most convenient for you...

...with *Development Direct*, you'll be able to conduct your business online, from permitting a new home and uploading plans, to installing utilities and checking permit status.

Details coming this summer at [www.clackamas.us/transportation](http://www.clackamas.us/transportation)



## Local couple donates nearly 13 acres of land for park purposes

John and Marilee Wetten gift valued at over \$520,000

Late last year, local residents John and Marilee Wetten gifted Clackamas County with an amazing donation that will benefit our community for years to come — a 12.86-acre parcel of land, specifically designated for park purposes.

The undeveloped tract — located in between Oregon City and Canby — is wooded and tranquil. The beautiful lot has wonderful characteristics for

a natural park setting: a spring-fed pond, a wetland area, an active beaver colony, walking trails, local horses, and established cedar, fir, cottonwood, and cherry trees.

“I think that anytime we can protect nature and the natural resources that we have, and leave it for the citizens of the area and the county to enjoy, that is our privilege and our pleasure,” John stated.

The Wettens are long-time pillars of the community. John and Marilee were

educators, and John later a principal in Gladstone at what is now John Wetten Elementary School.

They appeared before the Board of County Commissioners in late 2020 to help finalize the transaction, where commissioners also recognized and thanked the couple for the generous donation.

*“This incredibly generous donation by the Wettens will be enjoyed by the county for years to come,” said Commissioner Paul Savas. “I’ve visited this land, and look forward to the day when these beautiful acres are open to our residents to enjoy.”*

“I’m happy to see that this [property] will be used for the benefit of education, for youngsters, and for anybody who enjoys hiking or the outdoors,” Marilee said.

Per the donation agreement, the land must be used in perpetuity for open-space park purposes. This could include a conservation system, trails area, or a more developed park.



## You can save lives by simply asking, ‘How are you doing?’

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the perfect time to learn about ways you can give hope to those who might be thinking about suicide.

The past year has tested our resiliency in ways we never could have imagined. The pandemic, wildfires, ice storms, and social justice movements all revealed both our vulnerabilities and strengths. Efforts have been lifted up throughout the year and across Clackamas County to reach out to people struggling with loneliness, mental illness or addiction, who may need some extra support—and sometimes, a lifeline when they are having thoughts of suicide.

This is one reason why the work of the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Clackamas County is so important. The Coalition is a group of residents, mental health professionals, and suicide attempt survivors who are working to reduce the number of suicide deaths in Clackamas County to zero. They are dedicated to raising awareness about suicide, and to erasing the stigma that sometimes leaves people who are struggling with suicidal thoughts, feeling alone and isolated.

“The most important thing each of us can do right now is to ask simple and direct questions, such as How are you doing? Are you okay? or Are you thinking about suicide? Then, listen without judgment,” said Galli Murray, Clackamas County’s Suicide Prevention Coordinator, “Talking about something that is weighing heavily on us doesn’t feel so heavy if we feel heard and supported.”

Local resident Maria Harmon knows that all too well. She attempted suicide three times in her life, something she had kept quiet since childhood. Harmon said asking someone if they are having suicidal thoughts does not increase their chances of attempting suicide.

“If anyone had bothered to ask me if I was contemplating suicide, it would not have contributed to my intent,” said Harmon, who now serves on the coalition’s steering committee. “I would have felt recognized and supported. We need to check in with people who are struggling and offer support and resources.”

Harmon said it is important to continue to work to eliminate the stigma around suicide and to make resources and support readily available to anyone who needs it.

“Suicide prevention is the responsibility of us all,” she said. “People experiencing suicidal ideation need immediate support, resources and empathy.”

The Coalition is seeking members who represent the diversity

of Clackamas County. If you are interested in suicide prevention, helping others, and making a difference, please consider joining.

For more information about the Suicide Prevention Coalition, and tips on how you can help prevent suicide deaths, go to [www.clackamas.us/behavioralhealth/suicideprevention.html](http://www.clackamas.us/behavioralhealth/suicideprevention.html)

If you or someone you love needs support, call our 24/7 Crisis and Support Line at **503-655-8585**

**Sign up for a free suicide prevention training!**

**GET TRAINED TO HELP.COM**

You can learn how to help someone who is having an emotional crisis or mental health emergency by taking a Mental Health First Aid or suicide prevention training. There are classes for older adults, Spanish speakers, and veterans. Classes are free and are being held virtually.

**Register at [www.GetTrainedToHelp.com](http://www.GetTrainedToHelp.com)**

## Employment program can secure path to success

Troy Sullivan has years of managerial experience in the restaurant industry. His work was steady until sudden job loss, financial insecurity and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic derailed his career path.

At one point, Sullivan had used all of his savings and was receiving benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The future looked bleak.

“I had no idea what I was going to do,” Sullivan said. “I only had a month left of money and couldn’t afford to take any time off or wait for unemployment.”

Little did Sullivan know that when he applied for SNAP benefits, it came with a referral to the SNAP Training and Employment Program (STEP) operated by Children, Family and Community Connections (CFCC) in the county. The STEP program helps people receiving SNAP benefits obtain skills, training, work experience and employment to increase their ability to obtain living-wage employment.



Troy Sullivan

“When I met Troy, I could see someone highly motivated but limited in his employment options,” said Doug Vanzant, a workforce specialist at CFCC, who worked with Sullivan. “I encouraged him to take a part-time, temporary position restocking shelves 15 to 20 hours a week with a growing company called Retail Odyssey, a division of SAS Retail Services that provides contracted services for Fred Meyer and other grocery stores. I encouraged him to work hard because it might lead to other opportunities.”

Vanzant’s advice — and Sullivan’s hard work — paid off. On his second day of work, he was offered a full-time job, working up to 60 hours per week as a merchandiser. During the next 30 days, Sullivan earned two promotions, including becoming a territory lead. Sullivan’s success continued and

he was soon offered a supervisory position.

“I knew I could turn this temporary position into a life-long career, so I accepted the promotion,” he said. “It’s a huge opportunity.”

Sullivan is currently a corporate brand manager for SAS Retail Services. He’s hopeful of another promotion in the company soon. Sullivan’s hard work, coupled with the resources of the program, has changed his life forever.

“Change is scary for a lot of people,” said Sullivan. “If you work hard and accept help, opportunities can present themselves in ways you could never image.”

To be eligible for the STEP Program at CFCC, you must qualify for SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and be seeking career path employment. SNAP provides nutritional assistance benefits to children and families, the elderly, the disabled, unemployed and working families.

To learn more about CFCC Employment and Training Programs, go to [www.clackamas.us/cfcc/employment.html](http://www.clackamas.us/cfcc/employment.html)



Connect to local information that can help older adults, veterans, persons with disabilities, caregivers and family members to:

- live independently
- access benefits
- help a loved one
- get support for memory loss or dementia
- learn about long-term care options
- find community programs and resources

Services are available in any language | Servicios disponibles en cualquier idioma | Услуги доступны на любом языке

[www.adrcforegon.org](http://www.adrcforegon.org)

## You Can Help Prevent Water Pollution

**Keeping your lawn free of weeds involves many choices—some are hazardous to our families, pets, and waterways.**

### Safest

Annually aerate, de-thatch and over-seed bare spots in spring. This will keep the lawn dense and healthy, which keeps out weeds. Use a long-handled weed removal tool for easy weed removal. Fertilize only in fall with a slow release fertilizer, if at all.

### Next Best

If you choose a weed or insect control product, look for the OMRI label which helps identify less hazardous chemicals. Always read and follow the label, as even natural/organic products can be harmful. Only apply products when multiple dry days are forecast. Spot spray only the individual weeds you really can’t live with!

### Important Measures You Can Take

Do not apply pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers under windy conditions, or when rain, snow or hail is predicted within the next 48 hours.

Consider hiring an ECOBIZ certified landscaper! See [www.ecobiz.org](http://www.ecobiz.org)

*For the more than 190,000 people living and working in Clackamas County, Clackamas Water Environment Services produces clean water and protects water quality. Providing innovative resource recovery services, stormwater management and environmental education, it’s our job to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy the benefits of safe, healthy water for generations to come.*

Learn more at [clackamas.us/wes/education](http://clackamas.us/wes/education)





# CAMPING

## IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY PARKS

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Customer

*Clackamas County Parks is taking reservations for the 2021 camping season, which runs from May 1 to Sept 30.*



From tent camping to RV sites, with four campgrounds to choose from at three of our most popular parks, you can start planning your summer getaway.

### **Barton Park on the Clackamas River**

19009 SE Barton Park Road, Boring

**112 campsites**

### **Feyrer Park on the Molalla River**

16185 S. Feyrer Park Road, Molalla

**20 campsites**

### **Metzler Park on Clear Creek**

24526 S. Metzler Park Road, Estacada

**75 campsites**



Reservations can be made up to one year in advance by visiting  
**reservations.clackamas.us**

or by calling Clackamas County Parks main office at 503-742-4414