



## Budget approved

Clackamas County Commissioners approved the fiscal year 2017-18 budget in June. The general county budget totals about \$782 million. The all-purposes budget, which incorporates special districts and agencies that commissioners oversee, stands at \$1.15 billion.

These budgets, while flat, maintain existing county programs and services.

Overall, the economic health of Clackamas County is strong. Unemployment is down, and housing prices are up. But property tax revenue will only increase to the point that it is keeping up with inflation, which is why the budget is flat.

The county is expected to operate with fewer full-time staff this year. Additionally, the county took action with this budget to put itself in a better position to address expected Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) rate increases.

[cont'd on page 8](#)

## Travelers to benefit from 30+ transportation projects in Clackamas Regional Center area

If you live, work or play in the Clackamas Regional Center area, you'll be seeing a lot of traffic improvements in the next few years. By the end of 2020, more than 30 transportation projects will be completed in the area to improve safety and traffic flow for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians and transit riders.

Using funds from the Clackamas Town Center Urban Renewal District, the county's Development Agency is leading the Clackamas Regional Center Mobility Improvements Project. To use resources as efficiently as possible, all projects are in the southern portion, including Harmony Road/Sunnyside Road from west of SE 82nd Avenue to east of I-205, and along SE 82nd Avenue from south of Sunnybrook Boulevard to north of Sunnyside Road (see map on page 5).

[cont'd on page 5](#)



## Get to know Willamette Falls

Clackamas County is rich in natural resources, but arguably the most significant landmark in Oregon's history remains inaccessible to locals and visitors.

Standing 40 feet high and spanning the width of the Willamette River, Willamette Falls is the second largest waterfall by volume in the United States, behind Niagara Falls. It marks the end of the Oregon Trail, supported the industrial development of Oregon City, produced power for the first long-range transmission of electricity, and served as a trading post and traditional fishing ground for salmon and lamprey eel long before western settlers arrived.

Today, Clackamas County is one of many proud partners supporting three major initiatives that are currently underway to improve the access, navigation, and historical designation for Willamette Falls and its surrounding area.

### Willamette Falls Legacy Project

Oregon City began on the Willamette River. More specifically, it began where the abandoned Blue Heron Paper Mill now sits at the south end of Main Street. The state's earliest mills, urban

communities, and employment centers thrived there before a large-scale paper mill eventually made Willamette Falls inaccessible to the public.

Over 150 years later, Oregon City, Clackamas County, Metro, and the state of Oregon are working closely to restore access to Willamette Falls in an effort known as the Willamette Falls Legacy Project.

This partnership is dedicated to transforming the old mill site into a thriving center for new jobs and community activities.

- The Legacy Project has four core values:
- Historical and cultural interpretation
  - Public access to the falls
  - Maintaining a healthy habitat for fish and other wildlife
  - Economic redevelopment

Partners are working with the property owner to ensure a new riverwalk is created to provide public access to the falls and encourage redevelopment on the site.

On June 3, the project team unveiled the riverwalk design, created by the Legacy Project's design

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Resolution for the Purpose of  
**Affirming Clackamas County as a Welcoming and Inclusive County**

HEREAS, on July 19, 2017, Clackamas County adopted Resolution No. 2017-21, Valuing Diversity in Clackamas County, and on October 1, 2015, Clackamas County adopted Resolution No. 2015-16, Valuing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Clackamas County. Consistent with the values expressed in these prior resolutions, Clackamas County reaffirms and states as follows:

HEREAS, our County and County's shared prosperity is the result of the contributions of immigrants, refugees and people of many nationalities;

HEREAS, the County's cultural and policy environment is made better when all of our County's residents fully participate and are integrated into the social, civil, and economic fabric of their County;

HEREAS, the County acknowledges the inherent worth and dignity of all persons and believes everyone should be treated with respect regardless of race, color, national origin, immigration or refugee status, ethnicity, primary language, religion, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, mental, emotional, and/or physical ability, age, or genetic status;

HEREAS, community members have expressed fears regarding access to Clackamas County services, such as health center and the full range of public safety services;

HEREAS, our County is stronger when all people are free from fear, intimidation, harassment, and uncertainty;

HEREAS, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, as the governing body of the County that is home to over 20,000 residents, has identified equity, diversity, inclusion, prosperity, and community stability among its desired economic and

HEREAS, Clackamas County has also identified service, professionalism, integrity, respect, individual accountability, and just as key core values of the County government and leadership;

NOW THEREFORE, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners do hereby resolve as follows:

**Clackamas County reaffirms its commitment to Valuing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Clackamas County, by providing stability, opportunity, safety, and justice for every**

5

### NEW COUNTY RESOLUTIONS



WIC PROGRAM



RIVERSTONE MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC



## Krupp’s Korner:

### Are you ready for the eclipse?

A rare and historic solar eclipse will occur in a matter of days. The path of totality, within which the sun will be completely blocked by the moon for minutes, passes through the southern part of our beautiful county.



This will allow Oregonians to see perhaps a once-in-a-lifetime celestial spectacle. And we’re expecting plenty of company.

Estimates are that the state of Oregon may get as many as 1 million visitors in the days leading up to the eclipse, Monday, Aug. 21.

In order to best inform and prepare our residents, the county has developed an informational webpage filled with helpful tips for residents and visitors to experience a safe event. The webpage is [www.clackamas.us/eclipse](http://www.clackamas.us/eclipse).

Here are some of our recommendations:

- **Errands and appointments:** Traffic could be heavy before, during and after the eclipse. Please take actions in the days beforehand to minimize the time you need to travel or run errands, including doctor appointments, grocery shopping, prescriptions fill-ups, and similar tasks.
- **Cash:** Make sure to withdraw enough cash several days ahead of time, as demand in the days preceding and on the day of the eclipse might be unusually high.
- **Supplies/food:** Supplies may be limited due to demand. Be sure to secure any needed supplies ahead of time.
- **Gas:** Due to expected high demand, be sure to fill up your vehicle several days early.
- **911:** Remember, 911 is for emergencies only. The Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office non-emergency number is 503-655-8211.
- **Cell service:** It is anticipated that local cell service may be overwhelmed or have limited access, especially leading up to and during the event. Be sure to develop a plan with family/friends if you lose or have limited service.

Further, our webpage includes other helpful tips, divided into sections:

- **Items to bring:** These include water, a first aid kit, cash, and viewing glasses which are essential for looking at the sun! And don’t forget sunscreen.
- **Travel/transportation issues:** The Oregon Department of Transportation does not anticipate closing highways. But depending on traffic volume, restrictions may be imposed on short notice to ensure smooth access and egress from highways. Please be patient and watchful.
- **General safety/public health tips:** Heat-related illnesses are serious and can be deadly. Be prepared to stay cool wherever you are during the eclipse. Make sure you have plenty of water for everyone. The same goes for your pets.
- **Wildfire prevention:** The state Fire Marshal’s office recommends avoiding parking or driving on dry grass as your vehicle can start a wildfire. Do not use candles, fireworks, tiki torches, or other open flames outdoors.
- **Garbage, solid waste and sanitation:** For those of you who may be camping or otherwise settling outdoors in our rural areas, Travel Oregon emphasizes the importance of practicing “Leave No Trace”, which includes leaving sites as you found them, disposing of waste responsibly, respecting wildlife and being considerate of other visitors.

The county’s Tourism and Cultural Affairs Department – branded as Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory – also has a webpage devoted to learning about places to watch the eclipse and other tourism information. That webpage is [www.mthoodterritory.com/solareclipse](http://www.mthoodterritory.com/solareclipse).

If you have general questions about county operations during the eclipse, please contact our Disaster Management Department at 503-655-8378.

Nothing is more important to me than the safety, security and health of county residents. I encourage you to review our eclipse webpage in full. Have a safe, pleasant, and amazing celestial event.

Sincerely,

Don Krupp  
Clackamas County Administrator



## Volunteer opportunity

### Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council

The Clackamas County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council has up to 12 openings for advocates, family members, or providers serving three-year terms.

This council is an advisory group that meets four times each year to advise the county’s Developmental Disabilities Director about programs and services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. Members are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. The group advocates both locally and at the state level on issues related to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

The application deadline is Thursday, Oct. 26. If interested in volunteering, please complete an application by visiting [web3.clackamas.us/abc/](http://web3.clackamas.us/abc/). For an application by mail, contact Katie Wilson at 503-655-8552. For more information, please contact [valerieski@clackamas.us](mailto:valerieski@clackamas.us) or 503-650-5643.

## Get involved!

Clackamas County’s Community Involvement Program offers opportunities for residents and business owners to participate in the public process. If you live in unincorporated Clackamas County, a great way to get involved is to participate in your local community planning organization (CPO) or hamlet. These community groups meet to discuss land-use issues, community events, and other local topics. To learn more about these opportunities visit [www.clackamas.us/citizenin](http://www.clackamas.us/citizenin).

In addition, all members of the community are invited to volunteer on advisory boards or commissions. These groups are advisory to the Board of County Commissioners and meet to discuss and provide community perspective on specific programs and interests. To get up-to-date information on vacancies, join our mailing list by visiting [www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html](http://www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html).



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

Contact us about stories in the Citizen News at [CitizenNews@clackamas.us](mailto:CitizenNews@clackamas.us)  
Contact your commissioners at [bcc@clackamas.us](mailto: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





# What your county commissioners are working on

Your Clackamas County Commissioners are involved in countless issues on an everyday basis, but they often individually (or with another) handle a significant issue facing, or opportunity for, Clackamas County. Below are brief highlights about these.



**Commission Chair**  
Jim Bernard

**Stafford reserve agreement:** In late June, senior elected officials from the county, Metro, and the cities of Lake Oswego, Tualatin and West Linn came together to sign and celebrate an inter-governmental agreement on the potential future urbanization of the Stafford area in unincorporated Clackamas County. Chair Bernard has been extremely

involved in this issue for years. The agreement was worked out over several months as part of the process of finally approving urban and rural reserves in the county. The Stafford area – generally north of I-205; surrounded by the cities of West Linn, Tualatin and Lake Oswego – was originally approved as urban reserve in 2010.



**Commissioner**  
Sonya Fischer

**Climate change resolution:** In July, the Board of County Commissioners renewed its commitment to policies and practices to combat and adapt to climate change (see article on page 5). Commissioner Fischer spearheaded this effort

and introduced the resolution to raise awareness and highlight the importance of individuals and organizations doing whatever they can to reduce carbon footprints.



**Commissioner**  
Ken Humberston

**Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT):** CLT is a specialty wood product that forms structural panels with enhanced strength, dimensional stability, and rigidity. It can be manufactured to customized dimensions. Typically, panels consist of three, five or seven layers of lumber oriented at right angles to one another and then glued to form structural panels. In addition

to regular logs, CLT can utilize small-diameter and lower grade wood that is currently struggling for market capture. Commissioner Humberston is very involved in bringing this burgeoning industry to Clackamas County and making it an industry hub.



**Commissioner**  
Paul Savas

**Tiny homes for homeless veterans:** The county is moving forward with a plan to provide temporary transitional shelters for homeless veterans. The goal is to have 15 “tiny home” style facilities ready by the end of the year, with more to follow. The site currently being considered is in the Clackamas Industrial Area. Commissioner Savas has been involved with this concept since its inception, and actively involved with shepherding it through an efficient process

while incorporating feedback from the community. In early August, the board moved to allow such transitional shelter communities as a conditional use on light or general industrial land outside city limits. Effectively, this project can help get our local homeless veterans off the streets into a more stable situation that may increase their chances of employment and future housing.



**Commissioner**  
Martha Schrader

**International trade:** Commissioner Martha Schrader played a pivotal role in establishing Clackamas County’s sister-county relationship with Guanyun County in China. Last year, Commissioner Schrader traveled to China as part of a delegation that sought to better understand opportunities for trade partnerships. This trip culminated in the sister-county understanding where each county agrees to promote specific

investments; collaborate on trade, culture, education, science and technology; and promote friendly relations between residents. Earlier this month, a delegation from Guanyun County visited Clackamas County – a tremendous step toward accomplishing those goals. This relationship is part of the county’s international trade strategy that focuses on exports (which Commissioner Schrader is also deeply involved in).



Chair Jim Bernard and Commissioners Sonya Fischer and Ken Humberston celebrating at this past June’s Pride NW Festival & Parade in Portland. It was the third year in a row that the county participated in the event.



Commissioners Ken Humberston and Martha Schrader, and County Administrator Don Krupp (far right) lead the county’s Pride NW parade contingent.





## Workshop: Flood of Information

Are you prepared for flooding? Learn how you can take steps to protect your home and family.

Clackamas County will sponsor two area-specific workshops – A Flood of Information 2017: Preparing for Rising Water on the Rivers – this fall for county residents.

Meetings are scheduled for Sept. 30 at the Sandy Fire Department Annex and Nov. 11 at the Milwaukie Center.

The first workshop will focus on the Sandy River and its tributaries, while the second will center on the Clackamas and the Willamette rivers and tributaries. Both events will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

Workshops are open to all county residents, property owners and businesses interested in learning how to prepare for rising water conditions and emergencies in any flood-prone area.

Workshop education stations will include information on ways to minimize risk. Experts from local and federal agencies such as the Army Corps of Engineers, National Weather Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Oregon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries, as well as several county departments and divisions including Disaster Management, Planning, Transportation and Development, and Water Environment Services, plus local watershed councils and Sandy Fire Department have been invited.

Historic and current information concerning the volatility and dangers associated with the rivers will be available, including stories and videos of past flood events, studies, surveys, the latest on flood insurance, maps and much more. For more information about the event, contact Disaster Management’s Jay Wilson at 503-723-4848 or [jaywilson@clackamas.us](mailto:jaywilson@clackamas.us).



## Managing tansy ragwort

Tansy ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) is a pretty but deadly weed that is widespread in Clackamas County. It is poisonous to humans and livestock. Poor control of this weed, especially in our rural communities, can lead to difficult relationships between neighbors. Learn how to identify and manage tansy ragwort on your property through an informative article from the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District at [www.bit.ly/tansyragwort](http://www.bit.ly/tansyragwort).

## Moments with your baby are precious

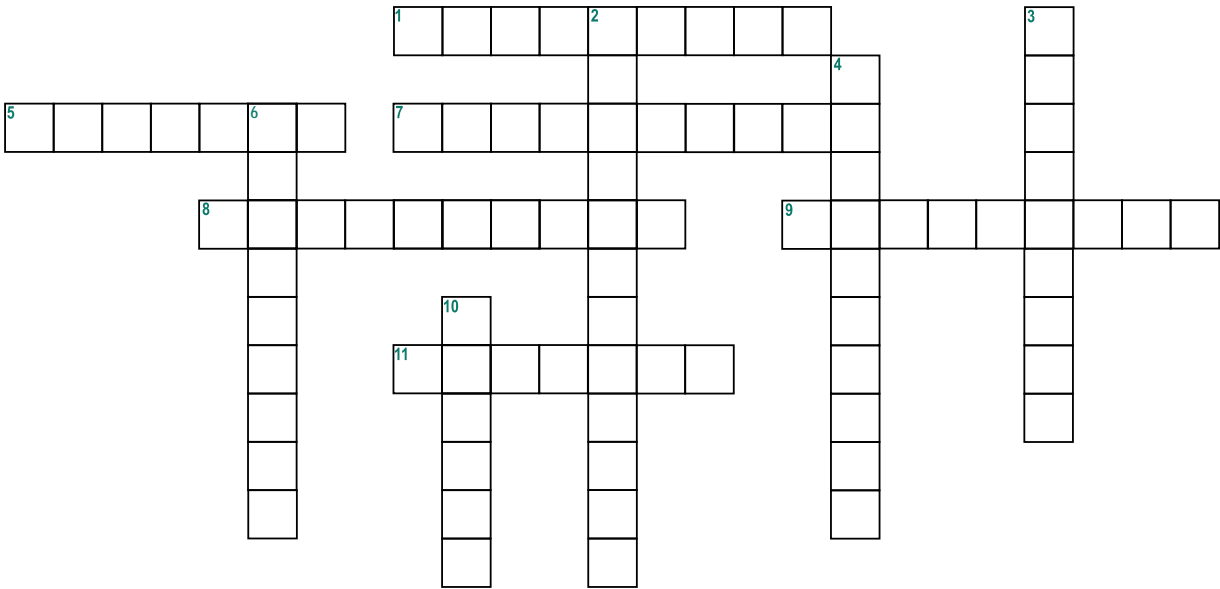
Baby wipes are convenient and save time, until they cause inconvenient and costly plumbing issues in your home and community’s sanitary sewer system due to clogged pipes and sewage backups.

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.



More than 100 students from the North Clackamas School District attended a Board of County Commissioners’ Business Meeting to showcase their science poster projects and express their appreciation for the county’s Water Environment Services’ Watershed Health Education Program. Watch the meeting at [www.bit.ly/2tKwSAv](http://www.bit.ly/2tKwSAv).

## Climate Change Crossword



### Across

1. To treat or process (used or waste materials) so as to make suitable for reuse
5. An energy source derived from organic material
7. Gases whose absorbtion of solar radiation is responsible for
8. Conversion of energy from sunlight into electricity
9. Gas exiting to the atmosphere
11. The composite or generally prevailing weather conditions of a region

### Down

2. The careful utilization of a natural resource in order to prevent depletion
3. A violent, tropical, cyclonic storm
4. Perennially frozen subsoil
6. A community of organisms within their environment
10. Worldwide

For answers to the Climate Change crossword, visit [www.bit.ly/ClackCoCrossword](http://www.bit.ly/ClackCoCrossword)



An aerial photograph of the Clackamas Town Center area. Several roads are highlighted with thick orange lines, indicating proposed transit routes. These include SE Fuller Rd running north-south, SE 82nd Ave running east-west, SE Harmony Rd running east-west, SE Sunnyside Rd running east-west, and SE Sunnybrook Rd running east-west. A black arrow points from the intersection of SE Sunnyside Rd and SE Sunnybrook Rd towards the southeast. The map also shows Interstate 205 (I-205) running diagonally across the bottom right, labeled "205". Other visible labels include "CLACKAMAS TOWN CENTER", "KAISER MEDICAL CENTER", "SE STEVENSON RD", "MILWAUKIE EXPWY", and "97TH".

More information is available at [www.crcmobilityproject.org](http://www.crcmobilityproject.org) or by contacting Project Manager Dave Queener at [davidque@clackamas.us](mailto:davidque@clackamas.us) or 503-742-4322.

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Clackamas County's Public Health Division gave a Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program presentation Aug. 4 to the Board of County Commissioners. WIC clients told Commissioners Jim Bernard (fifth from the left), Sonya Fischer (sixth from the left), Ken Humberston (fourth from the right), Paul Savas (second from the right) and Martha Schrader (first on the right) about how the WIC program, and the county's WIC staff, have played integral roles in supporting the health of babies and their mothers.

## WIC program improves health of babies, mothers

Having a baby is one of life's greatest joys.

Proper nutrition through breastfeeding can reap a variety of benefits for the child, including protection against diseases, allergies and sickness, as well as increase IQ and more.

Clackamas County's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program provides supplemental food and health care needs, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants or children under age 5 who are at risk.

WIC is for all kinds of families: married and single parents, working or unemployed. A father, mother, grandparent, stepparent, foster parent or other legal guardian of a child under 5 can apply for WIC on behalf of that child. In 2016, the Clackamas County WIC program served more than 4,700 families – 73 percent of which were low-income, working families.

Breastfeeding support for mothers is a cornerstone of the WIC program and is considered the optimal

infant feeding choice. On top of that, officials estimate that \$13 billion would be saved per year if 90 percent of infants in the country were breastfed exclusively for six months.

Here in Clackamas County, the majority of mothers in WIC have initiated breastfeeding, and almost one-half keep breastfeeding for six months or beyond, which is positive because breastfed infants have a reduced risk of infections, asthma, obesity, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Mothers also benefit from breastfeeding as it reduces their risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer and postpartum depression.

To make it easier to breastfeed, more and more mothers are taking advantage of technology. New texting software called Prevention Pays ([www.preventionpaystext.com](http://www.preventionpaystext.com)) allows WIC staff to send secure text messages to clients and support their personal breastfeeding goals. Mothers can text questions, making it an easy and convenient way to receive the support they need.

On top of that, eWIC, an electronic benefits system for accessing healthy foods via debit card, also makes life easier for mothers. WIC participants can now log into [www.WIChealth.org](http://www.WIChealth.org) and complete their choice of nutrition education activities on their smartphone or computer. This allows families to digitally participate in WIC services and eliminates physical trips to the WIC clinics, as benefits can be loaded onto participant's eWIC cards between certification appointments. Participants love the flexibility of these online education appointments and the variety of information they can access.

Clackamas County has six convenient WIC clinics, located in Canby, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Milwaukie, Oregon City and Sandy. If you would like to know if you or your family member are eligible for WIC, call 503-655-8476, email [WIC@clackamas.us](mailto:WIC@clackamas.us), or visit [www.clackamas.us/publichealth/wic.html](http://www.clackamas.us/publichealth/wic.html).

### Join us!

Clackamas County's Children, Youth and Families Division hosts a monthly interactive speaker series to discuss topics affecting our community.

Past topics have included:

- Bullying
- Domestic violence
- Food insecurity
- Teens, parents & social media

For more information, call 503-650-5678. Learn more at [www.bit.ly/ClackCoCoffeeTalk](http://www.bit.ly/ClackCoCoffeeTalk)



### Small Farm School Sept. 21

Clackamas Community College,  
Oregon City

Hands-on and classroom learning  
for beginning small-scale farmers  
Online registration opens July 13  
[www.bit.ly/smallfarmschool](http://www.bit.ly/smallfarmschool)



A collaboration between OSU Extension,  
Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation  
District and Clackamas Community College.

### Oregon City View Manor sale

Oregon City View Manor is a public housing community located in Oregon City. The Housing Authority of Clackamas County owns and operates the property.

The Housing Authority no longer receives enough money from the federal government to maintain the homes, so is seeking permission from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to sell the property. Money raised through the sale will go toward building high-quality homes in the county.

If HUD approves the sale, it will require relocation of the families who live there. The Housing Authority will hire a moving specialist to help each family find a new home and will pay for moving costs.

Housing Authority officials are committed to finding every family a new home.

To learn more, visit [www.bit.ly/ocvmsale](http://www.bit.ly/ocvmsale).



# 9/16: Disaster response summit



The third annual Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) summit – hosted by Clackamas Fire District #1 with support and coordination from the county’s Disaster Management Department – is set for Saturday, Sept. 16. The event will be held at

the Clackamas Fire Station 14 in Boring. Sponsors include the Canby, Clackamas, Estacada, Hoodland and Molalla fire districts, as well as the Lake Oswego Fire Department.

CERT groups help communities to both prepare for, and help assist after, a disaster. At the summit, CERTs from across the county come together to practice and sharpen skills related to light search and rescue, fire extinguishing, sandbag filling, disaster sanitation, and commodity points of distribution.

The county appreciates volunteers that make up our local CERT teams. Thank you all for taking the time to help our community. If you are interested in joining a CERT or want more information on the summit, please contact Disaster Management’s Jamie Hays at 503-655-8838.

# Now is the time to prep for winter heating

August isn’t the time of year when most of us are thinking about keeping our homes warm. Keeping cool is most likely at the top of our agenda now. However, October will be here soon enough. The fall season brings cool, wet weather we are famous for in the Pacific Northwest.

It’s not too early to start thinking and planning on ways to save energy and stay cozy and warm as the temperature drops. Here are some ideas on how you can reduce your heating bills without spending a lot of money.

## Find the leaks

Professionals use a large fan and equipment called a blower door to test how effective a home is at containing its heating or cooling. Blower doors are expensive and take a lot of training to use properly. However, there is a simple test you can perform at home to find leaks.

- First, light some incense sticks to produce a little bit of smoke.
- Close all of the doors and windows in your home to make it as tight as it normally would be in the winter.
- Turn on all of the exhaust fans in your home that exit to the outside.
- Probe around the openings in your home. Watch the smoke from the stick. It will move quickly to where there is a leak. Note the location and move on. Pay particular attention to areas around doors and windows, and where pipes and wires come into the home.

Most homes can be checked in 25 minutes or so with this method.

## Seal the leaks

Leaks around wires and plumbing pipes may be sealed with caulk, either in a tube or purchased in a roll as “cord weather strip.” Larger openings need to be sealed with inexpensive sealing foam from an aerosol can.

Leaky, single-pane windows can be sealed with inexpensive storm window kits available at most hardware stores. This will also stop water condensation on the glass during cold weather. Intact double-pane windows do not really benefit from storm kits. Sliding windows that leak at the

seam can be sealed with clear packaging tape at the middle of the window.

Doors that leak should be sealed with weather stripping and a door sweep at the base.

One note of caution: It is possible to make a home too tight. If you have a combustion appliance such as a woodstove or fireplace and you have any evidence of back drafting, i.e. smoke coming into the home, then you must get a professional HVAC contractor to look at your home before performing any air sealing.

## Turn down the heat

During the heating season, turning down the heat at night and when you are away for six hours or more will make a noticeable reduction in your heating bill. Heat pumps generally should not be turned down more than 3 degrees because you lose the savings if the auxiliary heat comes on when heat is called for. Also, do not turn the heat below 60 degrees for long periods because of the potential for moisture condensation and mold growth in cool spots in your home.

## Keep it clean

This is the time of year to clean and check your heating system before you need to use it. Baseboard and wall-mounted electric heaters need to be clean and unobstructed to work best. To clean them, turn off the power at the circuit breaker panel and use a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment to gently remove dust and lint from the fins and coils.

Forced air systems need to have the air filters checked and replaced if dirty. Check the furnace filter at least once a month during the heating season. Oil furnaces should be checked and serviced annually by a qualified contractor. Natural gas furnaces should have a blue flame when running. Any tinge of yellow in the flame means the furnace is not running efficiently and needs service. Gas furnaces have a sight window that allows you to see the flame when the furnace is on. Again, use a qualified contractor for service.

For more information, call the Clackamas County Weatherization Program at 503-650-3338 or go to [www.clackamas.us/communitysolutions/weatherization.html](http://www.clackamas.us/communitysolutions/weatherization.html)

# County’s mental health crisis clinic assumes new name

It may have a new name, but Clackamas County’s Behavioral Health urgent walk-in clinic will still provide the same great service. Centerstone will now be called Riverstone.

Richard Swift, the county’s Health, Housing and Human Services Director, said the name change will enhance the understanding of crisis and mental health recovery in the community. The new name encompasses the idea that people, like river stones, are shaped by life experience.

“One in three Americans are challenged by mental illness,” Swift says. “This number expands when families are included. Centers like Riverstone exist to help us begin, and to maintain, the path to wellness for ourselves and our families.”

At its core, Riverstone is a supportive place where people in crisis can talk to a counselor or peer support advocate for information, resources, treatment, and support.

Located at the Ross Center near Clackamas Town Center at 11211 SE 82nd Ave., Riverstone’s mission is to help those struggling with urgent mental health issues receive services and support.

Riverstone offers voluntary, walk-in, crisis and stabilization services that include peer support, case management, health insurance enrollment, crisis intake assessment, referral to medical services, brief therapy, and general education. Riverstone also has partnerships with county-based law enforcement, community corrections and jail services, and offers behavioral health transition services for newly released inmates. It provides a trauma-informed environment that offers easy access to culturally responsive support, regardless of ability to pay, in a safe environment that values individual choice and autonomy. Staff believes in whole person care and in the power of hope and recovery.

Riverstone is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Individuals can make an appointment by calling Riverstone at 503-655-8585 or by visiting Riverstone during business hours.

# Make an appointment!

Clackamas County Health Clinics provide affordable health care to our patients.

Our services include:

- Primary care
- Dental
- Prenatal
- Mental health

For more information, call 503-655-8471.  
Learn more by visiting [www.bit.ly/ClackCoHealthClinics](http://www.bit.ly/ClackCoHealthClinics)





# 13-year volunteer mediator looks back

When Ruth Tooze was managing an office in 2003, she came across an advertisement for community mediation training from Clackamas County Resolution Services. Ruth saw the training as a potential opportunity to learn a new skill that helps employees, and others, deal with problems.

After just a simple week’s worth of training, Ruth found that being able to effectively mediate not only helped with her work, but that she loved doing it.

“It’s very nice to be a part of helping disagreeing people come together and resolve things,” she said. “It’s very satisfying to provide that type of help.”

Resolution Services is one of the county’s smallest departments, but its impact is immeasurable. The small staff trains and relies on volunteers to provide conflict resolution services to people and organizations so they can resolve differences peacefully, develop skills for future resolution, and build safe, healthy relationships and communities.

Specifically, community mediation is available for low or no cost to neighbors experiencing conflict around issues such as property disagreements, animal control, or other noise complaints. Volunteer mediators provide coaching to each party over the phone, or help them set up a face-to-face meeting to respectfully share their perspectives, explore options, and come to agreement about next steps. Participants develop their own agreements in

a safe and confidential setting with the help of professionally trained volunteer mediators.

“In community mediation, neighbor-to-neighbor disputes like barking dogs or property line disagreements were common,” said Ruth. “It’s wonderful to see people who were angry at first end it with shaking hands and thanking each other.”

Over the years, Ruth has seen the value of mediation, and was pleasantly surprised how people can often work things out by simply sitting down and coming up with possible solutions. She strongly encourages everyone to try mediation as a way of resolving disputes, and encourages those interested in helping people try mediation training.

“People should become mediators because it’s a wonderful opportunity to provide a really, truly helpful service that can have a long-lasting effect,” she said.

If you are interested in learning the skills of mediation and conflict management, you can learn more about upcoming trainings at [www.clackamas.us/ccrs](http://www.clackamas.us/ccrs). A two-day Conflict Management Training will occur on Sept. 13-14, and a five-day Mediation Training on Sept. 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21, at Clackamas Community College. Registration and payment are due by Aug. 28. For more information or to register, call lead trainer Erin Ruff at 503-655-8852.

## Budget, cont'd from page 1

The budget is aligned to the Board of County Commissioners’ priorities, as outlined by the county’s results-based strategic plan, Performance Clackamas. More about that plan can be found at [www.clackamas.us/performance](http://www.clackamas.us/performance), but its five priorities are:

- Build public trust through good government
- Grow a vibrant economy
- Build a strong infrastructure
- Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities
- Honor, utilize, promote and invest in our natural resources

Commissioners and county officials are dedicated to providing excellent financial stewardship of taxpayer money. Highlights from the past year include:

- Water Environment Services undertaking a \$37.5 million project to add capacity at the Tri-City treatment facility. By refinancing bonds, WES saved \$9.7 million in interest.
- Clackamas County 911 (C-COM) completed interest arbitration and implemented a schedule change, resulting in decreased overtime costs and reduced expenditures.
- The Public Health Division brought in partners to train and supply law enforcement to carry Naloxone, an overdose antidote, which will help fight the national opioid epidemic here in the county.
- Transportation and Development staff responded to 300,000 development requests and performed 47,000 inspections, all while achieving outstanding marks for customer service.

The inclusive budget process takes about 10 months. A budget committee made up of commissioners and five residents conducts a thorough review to make recommendations, which the board then considers and finalizes.

The transparent process involves county departments and agencies presenting before the full budget committee, all of which (and accompanying materials) are available to the public at [www.clackamas.us/budget](http://www.clackamas.us/budget).

## Tips to prevent wildfires



August is the peak of Oregon’s wildfire season. There are many ways that everyday activities could start fires, and it is everyone’s responsibility to prevent human-caused wildfires. There are several steps you can take to reduce the risk.

### Tips for private landowners

- Fuels are dry and susceptible to a spark from a steel blade striking a rock or emitted by a hot exhaust system. Use the right tool for the job and help keep your equipment from starting the next wildfire.
- Keep a fire extinguisher or a source of water near.
- In Clackamas County, open burning is allowed from March 1 to June 15 and Oct. 1 to Dec. 15. Call the recorded burn message 503-632-0211 to find out if it is a “burn day.”
- When in doubt, call your local fire district.

### Tips to reduce smoking wildfires

- Dispose of smoking materials in deep, sturdy ashtrays; never on the ground or in dry vegetation.
- Make sure butts and ashes are completely extinguished.

### Tips to reduce vehicle wildfires

- Cars, motorcycles and ATVs can easily cast sparks or overheat – especially if they’re older or not maintained.
- Avoid parking or idling on tall, dry grass and keep vehicles on established roads and trails.
- Make sure tow chains are secured and not dragging on pavement.
- Your summer travel kit should include a shovel and fire extinguisher or gallon of water. Vehicles are required to have them in many areas.

### Tips for campfires

- Call your local forestry or fire district to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions at your recreation destination.
- Portable campstoves are a safer option to campfires at any time of year. Areas that prohibit campfires will often allow the use of campstoves.
- If campfires are allowed, Oregon law requires that all campfires have adequate clearing, are attended from start to finish, and are extinguished completely.

**Report a fire:** 911  
**Arson Tip Line:** 1-800-468-4408  
**Crime Stoppers Tip Line:** 1-877-876-TIPS  
**Report a roadside hazard:** 1-888-ASK-ODOT

Information above was provided by Keep Oregon Green ([www.keeptoregongreen.org](http://www.keeptoregongreen.org)) and [www.clackamasfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Open-Burning-Guidelines.pdf](http://www.clackamasfire.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Open-Burning-Guidelines.pdf).

## Girls Circle Facilitator Training

Oct. 2 and 3  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., both days

Our Juvenile Department is hosting this training. Learn everything you need to run a strengths-based program for girls and create a safe space to address risky behaviors, build on protective factors, and improve relationships.

Cost: \$360 by 9/2, \$410 after 9/2

For course and registration information, visit [www.bit.ly/GirlsCircle](http://www.bit.ly/GirlsCircle)







## School + Library = SUCCESS!

Getting ready for the new school year? Your local LINCC library (Libraries in Clackamas County) is here to help. We’ve got lots of friendly staff to help you find information for yourself and your family. Here are some common questions that we have answers for:

**My child will be writing BOOK REPORTS this year. Can you help me find good books they can read based on their age and interests?**

**YES!** Our librarians love to help people find books they might enjoy reading – just think of us as your personal book finders.

**YES!** We’ve got booklists with suggested reading by age and interest.

**YES!** We’ve got the award winners from Oregon Battle of the Books, Oregon Reader’s Choice Award, and the Beverly Clearly Children’s Choice Award books. Many are also available as eBooks.

**What about help with HOMEWORK?**

**YES!** Our librarians can help students find the information they need for their homework. Need information for a science project – we’ve got it! Need information about an historical event – we’ve got it! Writing about the pros and cons of an issue – we’ve got information about all sides! Something else – we’ve probably got it, or we can help you find a great resource.

**Can I get information/eBooks when the library isn’t open?**

**YES!** We’ve got thousands of reliable resources and digital books available 24/7 on our website. Go to [www.lincc.org](http://www.lincc.org) and click on the link for “Online Resources” or “eBooks & eAudiobooks.”

**Do I need a library card to access all these services?**

**YES!** It’s super easy to get a library card, and in most cases they are absolutely free. Sign up at your local LINCC library today.

Visit your local LINCC library or check out [www.lincc.org](http://www.lincc.org) for more information.

## Hidden Falls hidden no longer

Few people on Clackamas’ eastside area have been aware that they have been living a stone’s throw away from a secret natural gem. But that is about to change. Through a creative partnership and many years of diligent efforts to acquire and protect a unique and beautiful piece of property for public use, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District has announced the acquisition and project groundbreaking for “Hidden Falls” natural area.

Hidden Falls natural area is an extraordinary 21.3-acre piece of property in the Rock Creek area of Happy Valley and has been in private ownership. True to its name, Hidden Falls has a waterfall that can’t be easily seen from other areas. With the falls spilling Rock Creek waters downstream, and surrounded by old growth timber and native plants and habitat, it is a true urban oasis.

### The Important Connections

The beauty of the property is not its only unique and important aspect. It sits in an important spot for making connections in our regional trail system and completes a vital link in the Mt. Scott/Scouters Mountain Trail Loop.

Located between Pioneer Park, Oregon Elementary School, and Ashley Meadows Park on the west side, and Hood View Park, Rock Creek Middle School and Verne Duncan Elementary on the east, the new access to and through this area will provide outstanding new bike and pedestrian access between parks and neighborhoods.



### The Opportunity and Partnership

Through the innovative partnership between NCPRD and Icon Construction, this project is expected to be completed in spring of 2018 and includes:

- a 0.84-mile multi-use paved trail improvement to the Mt. Scott/Scouters Mountain Trail Loop
- viewing areas of the falls
- resting areas along trail
- safety fencing and retaining walls on steep slopes
- an attractive, glue-laminated timber bridge over Rock Creek

The overall value of the project is estimated at \$2.8 million, with \$1.6 million funded by NCPRD Park System Development Charges, and \$1.2 million in value donated by Icon Construction. The project completes important improvements outlined in NCPRD’s Parks Capital Improvement Plans, and Mt. Scott/Scouters Mountain Trail Loop Master Plan.

## AirBnB-style services to pay county’s 6% Transient Lodging Tax

In June, commissioners approved a County Code amendment requiring short-term lodging services to pay the county’s 6 percent Transient Lodging Tax. The code amendment applies to online service providers such as AirBnB, HomeAway, Vacasa, VRBO, and any other third-party lodging companies.

The tax, previously known as the Transient Room Tax, has existed in Clackamas County since 1980. Hotels, motels, inns, bed-and-breakfasts, and other lodging businesses are also subject to the tax.

Clackamas County is not alone in addressing issues surrounding the collection of lodging taxes with these private home rental companies operating in the “sharing economy.” Municipalities across the nation and Oregon have been updating their relevant lodging taxes to include these short-term lodging services during the past several years.

Lodging taxes are dedicated to the promotion and development of tourism and visitor programs for the county. Funds go to the Clackamas County Tourism & Cultural Affairs Department (operating as Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory), and to the County Fair Board.

The tax applies to the rent collected from private parties whose stay is up to 30 days in length (the tax does not apply for longer duration stays).

Additional exemptions to the tax include:

- Collections of less than \$15.01 in rent per day
- Rent for a hospital room, licensed medical clinic, licensed convalescent home or a home for the elderly
- Employees, officials or agents of the federal government occupying a transient lodging hotel while conducting official business

The public can review the changes at [www.bit.ly/TLTCodeChanges](http://www.bit.ly/TLTCodeChanges).



### Free microchipping at monthly vet clinic for county-licensed dogs

Microchipping gives you the best chance of being reunited if your dog gets lost! We offer free microchipping on the fourth Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. for county-licensed dogs. If your dog needs a license, you can purchase it on the same day.

Free rabies vaccinations are also available when you buy or renew your dog’s license at the clinic. Program details at [www.bit.ly/dogclinic](http://www.bit.ly/dogclinic)



**Meet our adoptable dogs!**  
Tuesday – Saturday  
11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Regular business hours**  
Monday – Saturday  
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
503-655-8628  
13141 SE Highway 212  
Clackamas, OR 97015  
[www.clackamas.us/dogs](http://www.clackamas.us/dogs)





*Willamette Falls, cont'd from page 1*

firm, Snohetta. Efforts are currently underway to continue raising the estimated \$60 million required to reimagine this extraordinary site.

Learn more at [www.willamettefallslegacy.org](http://www.willamettefallslegacy.org).

**Willamette Falls Locks**

Opened in 1873 by a private company and then purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1915 to provide free navigation around the falls, the Willamette Falls Locks have allowed the river to be one navigable waterway for over 140 years.

However, with the decline of timber harvests in the late-1900s, and the subsequent decline of timber rafts in the Willamette River, the Corps has struggled to secure federal funding to maintain the locks and keep the facility opened. In 2011, the locks were placed in caretaker status for safety reasons stemming from deferred maintenance, essentially closing the locks for navigation.

In an effort to divest their interest in the locks, the Corps received permission to begin a pilot disposition study in 2016. This past May, the Corps released a draft study recommending the transfer of the locks to a new owner. Additionally, it recommended making only minimal repairs in order to meet the Corps' liability obligations.

While these repairs would not return the locks to operational status, it would not prevent a new owner from making repairs. The study also includes an ultimatum for permanent closure if a transferee is not identified.

The Corps concluded a public comment period for the draft disposition study in July, and is expected to release its final report in September 2017.

Finding a transferee for the locks is no small prospect, and a coalition of local stakeholders known as the Willamette Falls Locks Working Group has diligently tried to ensure river communities, businesses, and local and state governments are aware of this historical navigation resource.

The working group has contracted a study to analyze the local economic benefits of a repaired and reopened locks. The report will be released this December.

Meanwhile, a state commission, formed under the passage of Oregon Senate Bill 256, will explore viable governance options and funding possibilities in the event the locks are transferred out of federal ownership.



**Willamette Falls Heritage Area**

The Willamette Falls Heritage Area showcases where Oregon began, including the natural history of the ice age floods, culturally significant Native American gathering spaces, and the development of Oregon's agricultural, industrial and civic heritage. The area's premier landmark is Willamette Falls, representing the end of the Oregon Trail – North America's largest human migration. It is dedicated as an Oregon Heritage Area and currently seeks designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA).

NHAs are places where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally-important landscape. They are part of the National Park Service and benefit local communities through increased federal funding, community engagement, education and stewardship for historical resources and renewed economic development opportunities.

Of the 49 NHAs currently designated, none exist in the Pacific Northwest or along the West Coast of the United States.

The Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition is a local partnership that collectively promotes the projects, events, and natural wonders within the area. Together, they work to tell the stories that celebrate Oregon's diverse heritage by linking sites, stories and activities to educate and entertain locals and visitors.

Learn more about the Willamette Falls Heritage Area here: [www.wfheritage.org](http://www.wfheritage.org).

**Moving forward**

Each project brings forward a unique mission to improve the public experience at Willamette Falls: improved public access to the falls, increased awareness of America's story at the end of the Oregon Trail, and the return of the Willamette River as one navigable waterway.

While these projects each move forward with independent goals, the success and momentum of any one project adds to the value and possible success of the others. Together, these projects are creating a synergy around the falls that is stirring excitement across the region and state about the potential of the Willamette River and what happens here in Clackamas County.



**Volunteer to pick up litter along county roadways**

Help maintain our 1,400 miles of roads by volunteering to clean up litter along a roadway near you. You can help clean and improve the appearance of our road system. We supply volunteers with grapplers, safety vests, plastic bags and roadside warning signs.

We install road signs recognizing groups or individuals who clean a dedicated section of road at least twice a year.

Details at [www.clackamas.us/roads/adopt.html](http://www.clackamas.us/roads/adopt.html)



# City of Happy Valley to expand its role in parks and recreation

Starting next year, the city of Happy Valley will expand its role and begin managing parks and recreation services and activities within its city limits. Since 2007, the North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (NCPRD) has developed and maintained the parks, trails, and natural areas in Happy Valley, and offered sports programming, recreational classes, events and activities for its residents, as well as approximately 100,000 other district residents in North Clackamas County.

When Happy Valley residents voted to annex into NCPRD, the city had less than half the population it does today and a small city staff.

In the coming months, the city of Happy Valley and NCPRD staff will be working together to plan for a smooth transition of responsibilities and activities.

## The past 10 years

NCPRD’s signature park development in Happy Valley was Hood View Park, the 36-acre, \$18 million park and all-weather turf sports facility in the Rock Creek neighborhood. Hood View serves Vern Duncan Elementary and Rock Creek Middle School students during the day, and a broad group of area sports teams and leagues after school hours.

The development served to secure a large parcel of land for long-term recreational use, and immediately provide the community with four all-weather turf sports fields, as well as picnic facilities, a playground and a walking trail.

Phase One of the two-phased plan has been completed. Phase Two called for the addition of a recreation center, skate park, dog park, fishing dock and other amenities, as resources became available.

As highlighted in the April issue of *Citizen News*, NCPRD and the North Clackamas School District have been working on a partnership that would transfer Hood View Park to the school district and would free up NCPRD resources to begin more capital projects. While use of the current park would continue much as it is today, with students using the sports fields during the day and NCPRD

programming the fields for community use after school hours, plans for expansion of the park and its amenities would be managed by the school district, in concert with city planners.

## How parks are funded

The maintenance and operations of parks, trails and natural areas within NCPRD’s boundaries is funded through property tax of \$0.54 per thousand of assessed value. While this tax rate is much lower than the rate of comparable districts around the state, the district has been able to provide a strong maintenance program and support a large sports program and a variety of recreational classes and activities. NCPRD currently maintains, or funds the maintenance of 274 acres that include parks, trails, and natural areas in Happy Valley, and programs a wide variety of sports leagues, offers Movies in the Park, Zumba in the Park, provides youth activities through the Rec Mobile, mobile recreation program, and other classes and camps.

After this year, NCPRD parks and recreation tax will no longer be collected from Happy Valley residents, and NCPRD will no longer provide maintenance and operations services or manage recreational activities in Happy Valley. The city will approach voters for a source of revenue to replace those operating funds and provide park maintenance and recreational programming.

New park development and capital improvements to existing parks are funded with System Development Charges (SDCs) collected from developers of new property, and supplemented by other funds. SDCs collected on new development after 2018 will go directly to the city for their use in funding park capital projects directly.

Happy Valley city staff has begun setting plans for assuming park maintenance and determining the level of sports and recreational programming it will offer. NCPRD staff is planning for the return to its original boundaries and a focus on preserving and improving the parks in the district and enhancing its strong recreational programming.

# New phone app: Mt. Hood Territory Heritage Trail

Clackamas County is rich with heritage. Travel anywhere around the county and chances are that an interesting heritage site is just a stone’s throw away, waiting to be discovered. But how do you know if one is nearby?

Clackamas County Tourism and Cultural Affairs, branded as Oregon’s Mt. Hood Territory, has the answer.

You can now download the free Mt. Hood Territory Heritage Trail App for your smartphone (available at the Apple App store or Google Play). Or for instant gratification, link to the mobile site at [www.omht.ocell.com](http://www.omht.ocell.com).

There are 25 local sites detailed with audio narration to explain their historical significance and interesting features. Want to learn about the Lake Oswego Iron Smelter? Know the history behind the Willamette Meteorite? Want to learn how Portland got its name? It’s all at your fingertips.

Plus, be sure to check out the “explore around you” map for suggestions on nearby shops, breweries, activities and more. Or try the bike map feature, where you can access routes (up to 30 miles) and visit heritage sites along the way.

Download the Mt. Hood Territory Heritage Trail app today!

### Does your Auto Mechanic Protect the Environment?

Since 1997, ECOBIZ has certified local auto repair, body & paint shops, and car washes who protect public health and the environment.

visit [ecobiz.org/chinook](http://ecobiz.org/chinook) to find certified businesses

Ecobiz is sponsored by local government agencies committed to protecting the environment

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CITY OF PORTLAND

CleanWater

SERVICES CITY OF GRESHAM

The Clackamas River Watershed Partnership

Washouli County

certified business



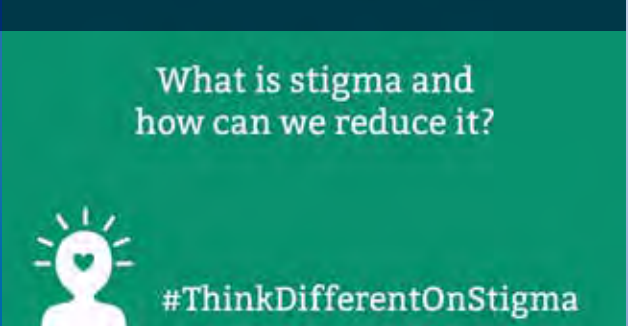
ecobiz.org



## VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

Clackamas County employees shared mental health stories and experiences as part of our *Think Different on Stigma* campaign, which aims to reduce the stigma surrounding mental illness by talking about mental health, ways to manage stress, and where people can seek help. Watch the series at [www.bit.ly/ThinkDifferentOnStigma](http://www.bit.ly/ThinkDifferentOnStigma).

### Think Different on Stigma



Deep in the Mount Hood National Forest sits the Bagby Hot Springs. These natural hot springs, located among towering firs adjacent to a secluded tributary of the Clackamas River, offer a unique recreation experience. Take a tour of the springs in a new video from our *Explore Clackamas County* series produced by #ClackCo TV at [www.bit.ly/ExploreBagbyHotSprings](http://www.bit.ly/ExploreBagbyHotSprings).

### Explore Bagby Hot Springs





# Sheriff's Office invites teens to 'Drive with a Cop'

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office is helping teenagers improve their driving skills in hopes of saving lives on the road. The third annual "Drive with a Cop" is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21 at Portland International Raceway, during National Teen Driver Safety Week.

"Research shows 75 percent of fatal teen crashes are the result of high speed, and automobile crashes are the number one killer of teens nationwide," said Sheriff Craig Roberts. "Our goal is to help empower teens to make good decisions on the road."

Three years ago, the Sheriff's Office developed the event as a way to help prevent teen car crashes. Law enforcement officers are often first on the scene of a car accident, and see firsthand the toll that loss of life takes not only on a family, but on the entire community.

This year, Drive with a Cop will be held at the larger raceway venue. Teen drivers will receive hands-on training from Sheriff's Office deputies who are also trained driving instructors. Attendees will learn about the dangers of distracted driving, speeding, and how being impaired by drugs and alcohol impacts decision-making behind the wheel.

Outside the car, teen drivers will take part in hands-on activities that will allow them to learn about the dangers of driving distracted and impaired. The activities are aimed at helping empower teens to make safe decisions while driving. Participants will wear "impaired goggles" that simulate the experience of driving drunk or high to demonstrate how difficult it is to drive safely while under the influence.

Teens will also hear from several speakers impacted by teen car crashes, including Carrie Higgins, who lost her 17-year old daughter Maddi in a high-speed car crash on Pete's Mountain Road in 2014.

Drive with a Cop is made possible through a partnership with Oregon Impact, an organization providing educational experiences to end impaired and distracted driving, and State Farm insurance.

To register for Drive with a Cop, visit [www.drivewithacop.com](http://www.drivewithacop.com). The event is free and open to all licensed teen drivers. For additional information please contact Event Coordinator Kim Lippert at 503-785-5016 or [klippert@clackamas.us](mailto:klippert@clackamas.us).



## Taking to the water? Remember these swimming and boating safety tips

Clackamas County residents are taking to the river to boat, swim, float and fish as we enter the dog days of a hot summer. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office wants to once again remind everyone to take the proper steps to make those experiences both fun and safe.

"Drowning is a preventable tragedy," said Lt. Robert Wurpes, who has supervised the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol. "Often by the time you realize you're in trouble, it's already too late. But some basic safety practices can prevent that."

Wurpes urged people to wear personal floatation devices (PFDs) while swimming in county waterways. One of the common excuses he hears about people not wearing PFDs is, "I'm a good swimmer." But, he says, "even a good swimmer can be overcome quickly by injury, cold, exhaustion and fear. The best practice is to wear it."

Wurpes also notes that attempting to rescue another swimmer in distress is very dangerous. Trained rescuers teach and use a protocol called "Talk, Reach, Throw, Row":

1. **TALK.** First, call 911, then talk to the person and see if you can coach them to swim to you on shore or to a boat.
2. **REACH.** Next you can try to reach to them by extending a pole, branch or inflatable boat. Do not allow them to grab hold of your body, as they may try to pull you in.
3. **THROW.** You can throw a distressed person a life jacket, life ring, rope or any other object that will help them stay afloat.
4. **ROW.** If necessary, use a boat to get to the person.

Here are some general boating and water-safety tips, gathered from the National Institutes of Health and other sources:

- Check river conditions before going out. The water is often colder than you think, particularly in the spring – and underestimating river depth, swiftness and temperature has led to several tragic drownings on county waterways in recent years. Don't dive into water unless you're sure of the depth, and don't let poor judgment turn you into a sad statistic.
- On a related note: Be knowledgeable of the water environment and its potential hazards. Make note of deep and shallow areas, currents, depth changes, obstructions and entry and exit points. If you aren't sure you're swimming in a safe place, DON'T SWIM.
- Learn CPR.
- Never swim alone.
- Know your limits – don't overexert yourself.
- Avoid drinking alcohol during water activities, including swimming, diving and boating. Do not drink while supervising children. The risk is high and the consequences can be lethal.
- Do not leave children unattended around water. This includes wading pools and bathtubs. Also, provide children with swim lessons.
- If you operate a powerboat, be sure to get your Boater Education Card.
- All boats, no matter how big or small, need one wearable PFD for each person on board. Children under age 12 need to wear PFDs at all times while the boat is underway.

To learn more about the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit, visit [www.clackamas.us/sheriff/marine.html](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/marine.html).

# Sheriff's Office launches webpage, reporting line for graffiti

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office is taking aim at graffiti with a new working group and reporting webpage.

The resource webpage, [www.clackamas.us/sheriff/graffiti.html](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/graffiti.html), offers several options for reporting graffiti to the Sheriff's Office, including a dedicated reporting email address: [graffiti@clackamas.us](mailto:graffiti@clackamas.us). The webpage also offers prevention and cleanup tips and identifies the major types of graffiti.

The webpage is part of an expanded graffiti-enforcement effort from the Sheriff's Office. That effort includes participation in a new working group that brings together representatives from Clackamas County's Community Corrections, Code Enforcement, and Transportation Maintenance divisions, as well as members of the Oregon Department of Transportation and local public utilities.

For more information visit [www.clackamas.us/sheriff/graffiti.html](http://www.clackamas.us/sheriff/graffiti.html).

