

#MyClackCo

Clackamas County Semi-Annual Publication

ISSUE 1 | 2020

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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

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



Cover Photo: Fall in Clackamas County
 Jessie Kirk, Public & Government Affairs



#MyClackCo
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County Administrator Notebook



County Administrator
 Gary Schmidt

Introducing #MyClackCo

Welcome to the first edition of #MyClackCo, our county's new print magazine. You may remember our former print publication, the #ClackCo Quarterly, followed a newsletter style. We've made significant improvements, as we hope you'll discover.

#MyClackCo is going to be focused on stories from around the county, things to look forward to, and how county decisions will affect you personally.

If you want to continue staying up to date on county news as it happens, follow us on our social media channels, or sign up for our email lists at www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html.

Office of Equity and Inclusion

A few months ago the county launched and fully staffed the Office of Equity and Inclusion. This is just the latest step for Clackamas County's equity, diversity and inclusion focused work. More on the new office can be found in the story #ClackCo responds to race issues on Page 7, and the next edition of #MyClackCo will feature a full interview with the County Equity and Inclusion Officer Martine Coblentz.

Gary Schmidt
 Clackamas County Administrator

This has been a challenging year for us all. While persevering through the ongoing pandemic, we were hit hard by widespread wildfires throughout our county.

Our dedicated employees at Clackamas County worked diligently to serve and support you during this latest emergency. Our top priority is protecting your safety.

While we immediately stood up an emergency operations center focused on the wildfires – one instrumental in supporting firefighter efforts, relaying critical public information, and helping those displaced – we realize the safety and care of our county was a full community effort.

Thank you for being quick to act, following evacuation orders, and taking care of one another. We are proud to serve you. For more on how Clackamas County helped combat the fires, please check out Page 4.

We are working hard toward the road to recovery, working with you to strengthen our community and learning how we can better support you the next time disaster strikes.

In the next issue

Honoring departing and welcoming new elected officials

#ClackCo Commissioners

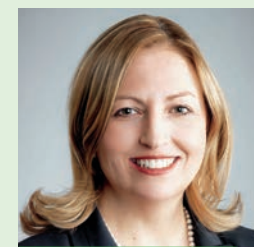
thoughts, observations and actions about the fires

Historic and unprecedented wildfires hit ClackCo in September. Commissioners continually seek to ensure resident safety and position the county to recover, from both this natural disaster and the ongoing pandemic. We caught up with the five commissioners to hear them relay their thoughts, observations and actions about the fires.



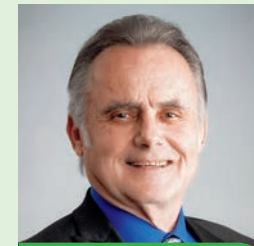
Commission Chair
 Jim Bernard

As I end my tenure on the commission during the most challenging year of my career, I realize that I have spent the last 19 years training for 2020 – a year full of unimaginable disasters for everyone – COVID-19, economic and racial disparity, devastating fires, and the numerous other disasters that have challenged our leadership. I have had the honor to serve with so many amazing people that have taken on this burden. Nancy Bush (Disaster Management), Gary Schmidt (County Administrator), Dr. Sarah Present (Public Health), Phillip Mason-Joyner (Public Health), Dan Johnson (Transportation and Development), and fellow commissioners all tirelessly took action and saved lives. It has been a privilege to have served beside them. We will win this battle!



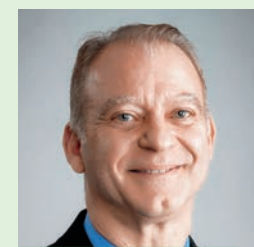
Commissioner
 Sonya Fischer

Clackamas County communities were greatly impacted by the wildfires in September. I was moved by the resilience and strength shown by the residents of the communities that had to evacuate and the support shown by organizations, responders and neighbors. In Clackamas County, there were dozens of homes and structures lost, and many acres of forest. Several fires continue to burn. Over time, by working together and helping each other, we will get through the next phase of this crisis: cleanup and rebuilding. Your Board of County Commissioners is committed to doing everything we can, utilizing all available resources, to help those who have lost their homes and property.



Commissioner
 Ken Humberston

Wildfires in Clackamas County are nothing new, but this one definitely hit closer to home than others. I watched as friends and neighbors feared for their lives and properties. It was important to me to go see people as soon as possible and let them know the county was here to help. I visited the evacuation sites and witnessed the fear and uncertainty people were experiencing, but I also saw the generosity – the outpouring of support from the community, and the importance of family. People who lost everything still stepped up to help others. People stayed behind to protect their communities. It was amazing to see the community come together. Most importantly, we didn't lose any lives in Clackamas County – that's what really matters.



Commissioner
 Paul Savas

When I first learned of the wildfires, my first concern was the safety of our residents. It was especially alarming when I learned the fire had spread 17 miles in just one day. Would it continue to spread ... and so quickly too? For those who put their lives on the line to fight the fires, and those on the front lines helping to evacuate people in imminent danger, I am extremely grateful. The outpouring of community assistance and concern was overwhelming and appreciated. Those who provided emergency sheltering, food, and assistance have my deepest gratitude. What weighed on me most during that time was not knowing if everyone was safe, and sympathy for those who lost their homes.



Commissioner
 Martha Schrader

Soon after the fires that devastated Molalla, I had an opportunity to tour the community and meet with representatives from various agencies and residents. Words cannot describe the destruction these wildfires have inflicted, and I continue to be inspired everyday by the people in these communities, as well as those who are working so hard to help get these families the resources they need to start over. I am also grateful for the county's Emergency Operations Center staff and others, who were already working long hours and weekends to help us respond to the COVID-19 crisis. I have lived in Clackamas County nearly four decades, and have never experienced a more challenging year for us as a community, but we will get through this together.



Courtesy Clackamas County Sheriff's Office



Courtesy U.S. Forest Service

Top and above: The Riverside Fire near Estacada gained more than 100,000 acres of new growth in one day, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Center: Firefighters from the Oregon Department of Forestry work on "mopping up" hot spots of the fire.



Wildfires in Clackamas County

In September, Clackamas County experienced one of the worst wildfires in the county's history.

Countless families evacuated their homes to escape the fires. Structures burned. Homes were destroyed. The lives of some of our residents changed forever.

Despite these historic challenges, the residents of Clackamas County persevered. Family members helped loved ones evacuate their homes. Neighbors assisted their community by donating supplies. Strangers moved animals and livestock to safer pastures. Many did so much more and the kindness will never be forgotten.

"It's amazing that in times like these, people are still willing to help people they might not even know," said Nancy Bush, Clackamas County Disaster Management Director. "It goes to show you that even in the face of disaster like

this, Clackamas County is an amazing place to live."

The fires started right after Labor Day – Sept. 7. By the time the fires subsided, initial estimates found that 62 homes were lost. Officials also estimated that 111 properties were damaged and at least 214 structures were damaged or destroyed. In total, officials estimated the cleanup cost to be \$6.8 million.

Firefighters battled three main blazes — the Riverside fire (more than 138,000 acres) Beachie/Lionshead fire (more than 46,000 acres) and the North Cascade fires, which included the Unger fire (497 acres), the Dowty fire (1,509 acres), the Wilhoit fire (532 acres) and the Graves Creek fire (46 acres).

A variety of fire-fighting agencies responded to these fires, along with Clackamas Fire District #1. The Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office (OSFM) was

one of the agencies in command, along with the overhead teams from North Carolina and the Southwest Incident Management Team. They (OSFM and the Southwest Incident Management Team) took command of the Wilhoit, Unger, and Dowty Road fires on Sept. 10 before the North Carolina team was involved.

In addition to the loss of private property, officials estimated that 428 acres of county forest burned, which saw the loss of approximately \$2 million in timber revenue. The county suffered other losses, too. Approximately 4,000 trees burned, which cost roughly \$4 million to remove. A repair estimate for culverts on the road system was \$500,000, along with an estimated \$145,000 in damages to parks.

Through it all, no firefighter injuries took place and no lives of Clackamas County residents were lost.

"Local firefighters and those from across the region, along with Clackamas County citizens, worked incredibly hard to save as many lives, homes, and structures as possible," said Brandon Paxton, the Clackamas Fire District #1 Public Information Officer.

In addition to the first responders, many county staff members worked diligently to respond to these fires. County staff worked with various outside agencies to stage temporary evacuation sites, coordinated supplies to residents, set up fire resource centers in Estacada and Molalla so people affected by the fires could talk with professionals about their concerns and how to move forward, held several press conferences to update county residents with the latest news on the fires and so much more.

"Our first goal was to support firefighting efforts to ensure no lives

Cont. on page 6

Wildfire Timeline

Dry weather and high winds combined to create conditions that easily led to wildfires

Sept. 7: Portland General Electric activated the Public Safety Power Shutoff Program and temporarily turned off power along the Mt. Hood Corridor to prevent wildfires by preventing sparks from power outages.

Sept. 8: The first evacuation order was issued around midnight and continued throughout the day, as high winds continued to spread active fires. Clackamas County declared a state of emergency in response to six wildfires.

Sept. 10: The Clackamas County Board of Commissioners enacted a curfew in all areas of Clackamas County from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. so first responders could easily access the area and to prevent looting.

Sept. 13: Additional parts of Molalla, Estacada, Oregon City and other areas were elevated to a level 2 evacuation plan, meaning they were encouraged to have their bags ready to leave their homes.

Sept. 16: Portland General Electric restored a majority of power to the Mt. Hood Corridor area.

Sept. 21: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office adjusted the curfew to be in effect for Level 3 "Go" evacuation zones. The county held a press conference on the latest developments of the fires.

Sept. 22: Clackamas County opened fire resource centers in Estacada and Molalla to help individuals and families navigate resources like insurance and FEMA while recovering from the wildfires.

Sept. 29: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office lifted evacuation orders for all of Clackamas County.

Sept. 30: Clackamas County Sheriff's Office lifted curfew for all of Clackamas County.



Clackamas County Commissioners (from left to right) Martha Schrader, Sonya Fischer, Paul Savas, Jim Bernard and Ken Humberston took a tour of the Riverside and Dowty wildfires on Sept. 23 to better assess resource needs for residents.

A message from the Clackamas County Commissioners

Our county has been devastated by these historic wildfires, which have threatened many homes, families and places we hold dear.

We can only imagine what your evacuation has been like, having to leave your home and not knowing whether it would be there when you returned. For many of you, it's been a long vigil of waiting and watching for the smoke and fire to turn, and for your evacuation zone to be declared safe.

We are forever grateful to the firefighters, volunteers and sheriff's deputies who responded to this crisis. We are impressed how

you cared for your community and neighbors. We have been humbled by the strength you showed as you were evacuated. Please know that when we think of the Clackamas County Fires of 2020, we will always remember your grace in the face of them.

If there is anything Clackamas County can do, please contact us at 503-655-8224 or call 2-1-1.

— Clackamas County Chair Jim Bernard, Commissioner Sonya Fischer, Commissioner Ken Humberston, Commissioner Paul Savas and Commissioner Martha Schrader

Cont. from page 6
were lost. Our secondary goal was to help the people of Clackamas County during this emergency situation," Bush said. "Our residents deserve nothing less than that. I'm extremely proud of the way our employees worked to make that happen — even while some of their own homes were in danger of being lost to the fires."

Flooding a concern for burned landscape

Now that we're headed into winter and beyond, flooding and mudflows are a concern. According to Jay Wilson, the county's Resilience Coordinator, the

areas that have a burn scar suffer from the loss of trees, ground cover and shrubs. What ends up happening is heavier mud and debris flow can take place as a consequence of the fires.

It's estimated that it could take five years to grow vegetation back that covers the soil and establish structure to absorb the rain.

"At this period right now, there's a high likelihood that we'll have increased runoff," he said.

People should be aware if they live downstream from a burn scar area that there could be rocks, trees and debris from roadways, streams and rivers. Wilson also said he suggests residents purchase flood insurance.

"It's the best way to prevent the inability for you to recover if you do have a flood," he said.

Standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding, so getting specific flood insurance is critical.

You can learn more about flood insurance by going to:
www.clackamas.us/dm/floodinsurance.html

#ClackCo responds to race issues



ALL ARE WELCOME
TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS
МЫ ПРИВЕТСТВУЕМ
ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕЙ ВСЕХ
每个人都受到欢迎
모두를 환영합니다
TẤT CẢ ĐỀU ĐƯỢC CHÀO ĐÓN



Welcome sign that visitors see when entering Clackamas County buildings.

The May killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis prompted a wave of racial justice protests across the country, including in Portland and here in Clackamas County. Since then, the Board of County Commissioners took action to clarify its position and build upon its long-standing commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. (See sidebar)

One significant act was launching the Office of Equity and Inclusion, which was already in development, and is headed by Equity and Inclusion Officer Martine Coblenz.

One of Coblenz' first tasks was to

facilitate a public conversation on race issues in Clackamas County. During the August listening session, residents told commissioners about how racism plays a part in their daily lives. Our neighbors shared their experiences, including:

- Some African-American residents lived in fear
- Some residents have been run off the road multiple times for their skin color and beliefs
- High school students of color had ethnic slurs hurled at them
- Some noted that some cars in the county have Nazi symbols displayed
- In the not-too-distant past, houses owned by people of color were burned down

Coblenz said that learning about the history and experiences of people of color is a great first step toward understanding, and that many more conversations will be held in the future. When it comes to improving experiences and livability for #ClackCo residents who are Black, Indigenous or otherwise identify as a person of color, Coblenz said the county is building toward a better tomorrow.

"We see you. You deserve to live in a world where you do not live in fear. You deserve to live in a world where you can truly thrive. As a nation, we have much work to do in making this a lived reality. And, as a county, it is our job together to build toward this world of thriving."

Your health comes first

Behavioral health services are available via telehealth and at all of our health center locations. No matter your situation, we're here to help.



Schedule an appointment at any of our health center locations by calling 503-655-8401 or visit clackamas.us/healthcenters



Clackamas County Resolution on Race

To reinforce Clackamas County being a welcoming place, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners board unanimously passed a Resolution Condemning Violence and Racism Directed at Black, African Americans and all people of color in June.

These resolutions come with actions, including:

- Not tolerating, nor accepting in any way, treatment of Black, African American or people of color that degrades their dignity or disregards their human life.
- Calling on all elected officials and all agencies to recognize the value and contribution of the lives of Black, African Americans, and all people of color to remove barriers to greater equality.
- Reviewing all county policies and ordinances for any discriminatory impacts and practices, and encouraging other jurisdictions to do the same.
- Engaging in listening and learning opportunities with communities of color to learn of their experiences to better help in improving policies and practices.

Residents are encouraged to watch the race issues listening session at bit.ly/ClackCoRace2020

Watch for a feature article on the new Office of Equity and Inclusion in our next edition of #MyClackCo.



We're not out of the woods yet

County continues response to COVID-19

While the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected our local communities and regions in ways we've not seen before, Clackamas County continues to respond to help our residents.

As you may remember, the Oregon Health Authority on Feb. 28 announced Oregon's first case of presumed coronavirus involving an employee of a local school district in Clackamas County. Clackamas County activated its Emergency Operations Center the same day.

Since that day in late February, Clackamas County has been working with the state and local officials on a variety of topics including: school openings, financial assistance and more.

We realize businesses have been hit hard, and families and individuals in our community are struggling due to the numerous shut-downs to limit the spread of the disease. As a county, we are working to provide help to those who need it the most. However, our resources were limited.

This summer, Clackamas County requested \$45 million in Coronavirus Relief Fund (CARES Act funds) from the State which would support increased COVID-19 testing, hiring more contract tracers, keeping people housed and programs to help businesses survive during the pandemic. While \$247 million was spent in the region by our partners in other counties and cities, Clackamas County received only a fraction of the needed revenue from the CARES Act. The state's promise to reimburse the county \$5.6 million for its pandemic response before May 15 arrived two months after the funds were approved by the Oregon State Legislature.

You should know we're continuing our hard work here at Clackamas County to ensure that we have safe, healthy communities and that we will recover strong from the effects of this virus. Please remember to protect yourselves, and each other, as we continue to fight the effects of the pandemic.

As we head into the winter, flu and COVID-19 cases could rise. Because of that, we recommend:

- Wash hands often. If you can't use soap and warm water, use hand sanitizer.

- Don't touch your face
- Continue physical distancing
- Wear a face covering – for you and for others

In terms of staying healthy in other ways, a flu shot is the best way to avoid preventable illness. Officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.

The flu vaccine is safe, and is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. The flu vaccine does not cause the flu because the virus used is dead or weakened so it cannot make you ill. Fewer than one percent of people develop flu-like symptoms, such as mild fever and muscle aches, after vaccination. These side effects are not the same as having the actual disease. Be sure to also know that there is no evidence that getting a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes COVID-19. Getting a flu shot can help protect you and the people you spend time with from getting the flu. Some of the best ways to protect yourself from COVID-19 are to wear a mask and avoid spending long periods of time indoors with people who don't live with you.

More ways to stay informed

Website: For the latest county updates, closures and resources, visit www.clackamas.us/coronavirus



Social media: Follow @clackamascounty on Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor.

Email newsletter: Sign up to receive county email at www.clackamas.us/constantcontact.html

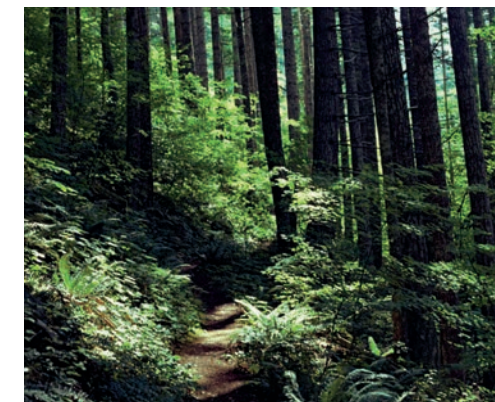


Your county parks await

If you've only enjoyed your Clackamas County Parks as a summertime destination for gathering 'round the campfire or jumping into the river to beat the heat, you're missing out on what more these parks have to offer in other seasons: More quiet. More wildlife. More of the park to yourself.

When the summer crowds retreat to cozy up for winter, the rains return and breathe new life into the forests,

changing dusty footpaths into places for wilderness wandering. After the campgrounds close, a quiet settles upon the parks and imparts a sense of solitude. Dropping a fishing line into one of the many tributaries, hiking some of the wooded trails or just sitting at the edge of a picnic area, one can observe sunlight filtered through clouds and damp trees, and the power of water as the rivers swell and foam.



The day-use portions of 14 County Parks are open year-round, and a day parking fee or your annual Clackamas County Parks Vehicle Parking Pass still covers your parking. Year-round boat launches and seasonally available water access sites allow boaters to get on the water, and more than 10 miles of trails are available to explore.

For more information, visit www.clackamas.us/parks

Submit land-use and transportation project ideas

Every two years, the Board of County Commissioners establishes a Long-Range Planning Work Program based on Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners priorities, actions required by law and input from community members and organizations.

The current 2019-21 Work Program includes 15 projects related to housing, transportation, economics, natural resources and energy, and other key issues. With the next two-year program scheduled to begin on July 1, 2021, county residents and organizations are invited to submit ideas for long-range land use and transportation planning projects to be considered for the 2021-23 program.

Suggestions will be accepted through Dec. 18, 2020, and should be sent to Lorraine Gonzalez, senior planner, at lorrainego@clackamas.us or by mail or drop-off to Planning & Zoning Division,



Development Services Building, 150 Beaver Creek Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045.

Please consider the following points when submitting your suggestions.

- It is likely only a few new projects will be incorporated into the program because many current projects have been delayed or impacted by the 2020 pandemic and wildfires.
- If you or your organization have proposed a project in the past that

was not included, please feel free to re-submit the idea.

- If we receive a suggestion that is not suited for the LRP Work Program but may fit elsewhere in the county, we will forward it to the appropriate county department and let you know we've done so.

For more information, please contact Senior Planner Lorraine Gonzales at: lorrainego@clackamas.us



Clackamas County is committed to climate action

Increasing natural disasters highlight urgent need to address climate change

People, organizations and governments at all levels are developing different strategies to reduce greenhouse gases and minimize exposure to hazards. Clackamas County is taking a leadership role to determine how to tackle this challenge in a way that makes sense for the county and all of our residents.

Climate change is already impacting our health through heat waves, diseases carried by migrating pests and water quality impacts. Other climate threats to safety include more frequent and extreme natural hazards. The county has a responsibility to plan for these health and safety threats. The natural hazards we've been experiencing just this year – the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and the September wildfires – highlight the need for us to move forward on this issue that is already impacting every one of us.

The Board of County Commissioners has set two key goals around this issue, which are:

1. Clackamas County will be carbon neutral (capturing as much carbon dioxide as we produce) by 2050. This is in line with recommendations from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which evaluates climate research for 195 member countries.
2. Clackamas County will adopt a climate action plan by 2022 with specific

recommendations for how to reach the goal of becoming carbon neutral.

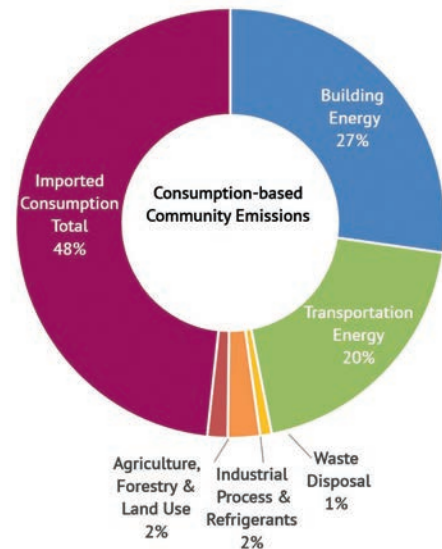
The climate action plan will look at the specific challenges and opportunities in Clackamas County, and work to align with the values of the county, including growing a vibrant economy; building a strong infrastructure; ensuring safe, healthy, and secure communities; honoring, utilizing, promoting and investing in our natural resources; and building public trust through good government.

Climate change and climate policies will impact every sector of the economy, from a changing environment to changing regulations. In order to grow a vibrant economy, we must plan ahead for these impacts. As the county recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and wildfires, the climate action plan will also support that recovery to promote long-term health and prosperity.

Infrastructure, from roads to wastewater treatment facilities, will need to be built or retrofitted to adapt to climate change.

Our natural resources are at high risk from climate change and also provide some great opportunities for reducing greenhouse gases. By investing in our natural resources, they can be healthier and more resilient, while also protecting our community.

Though we know many of the challenges posed by climate change, the specific solutions for Clackamas County will come from collaboration and problem-solving with community members and



partners. This extensive engagement will be transparent and accountable, with respect for the knowledge and experience of community members.

The background work has already begun, with greenhouse gas inventories completed for both county government operations and the county as a whole. This county-wide inventory, completed in June 2020, provides a baseline for the estimated emissions of the community in 2018. This helps us to identify which climate actions have the most potential to reduce our contribution to climate change, and gives us a baseline to compare future years so we can track progress on reduced emissions.

The climate action planning process is beginning this fall, though a little later than originally planned because of the need to respond to the wildfires. During the next year, there will be multiple opportunities for community members to share their thoughts, concerns and proposed solutions. We hope you will become a partner with us to help craft our collective path forward.

For more information on the Climate Action Plan or to sign up for updates, visit www.clackamas.us/sustainability/climateaction

Countywide transit study identifies needs, solutions



Public transit is a crucial component of a thriving community. It provides people with mobility and access to jobs, community resources, medical care and recreational opportunities. It also benefits the entire community by helping to reduce road congestion and travel times, air pollution, and energy and oil consumption.

While we have seven organizations that provide local bus service in Clackamas County, there are still large areas with no transit service. In addition, our current transit service varies considerably in frequency, access and connectivity.

That's why Clackamas County transportation planners, working with the community, transit providers and other partners, are creating the county's first Transit Development

Plan to identify transit needs countywide and develop plans for meeting those needs.

Through an online survey in June, more than 400 community members shared their perspective on transit needs in Clackamas County. Using that information and data from technical studies, the project team developed several specific proposals for improving transit services. The public commented on the proposals earlier this fall, providing the project team direction on which ideas would best serve the people of Clackamas County.

The study has identified general needs for additional and/or expanded transit in the following areas and proposed service changes to meet those needs:

- **New connections:**
 - On Highway 212 to Damascus/Boring
 - Along the future Clackamas to Columbia (C2C) corridor to Gresham
 - On I-205
 - Between communities along Highway 211
 - Between Cesar Chavez and 82nd Ave
- **New local transit service** in Damascus, Boring, the Estacada/Eagle Creek area and the Clackamas Industrial Area
- **Additional transit service** in Happy Valley, Oregon City and Canby

The Transit Development Plan, expected to be completed in January 2021, will help guide future transit investments to:

- Improve service in rural and suburban locations.
- Make fares and timing easier when riders transfer from one transit carrier to another.
- Bring new options such as shuttles, express services, vanpools, micro-transit, and transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft.
- Make driving easier on state highways by reducing traffic from single-occupancy vehicles.
- Help support climate recovery.

Clackamas Water Environment Services Offers Low-Income Discounts for Qualified Customers

Clackamas Water Environment Services' Low-Income Customer Discount Program offers a 50% reduction on the sanitary sewer portion of its monthly bills to customers who meet the guidelines.

The qualifying maximum gross annual income for a single resident is \$23,106.50 and \$31,283.50 combined maximum gross income for all persons residing in the residence.

For more information, please contact WES at 503-742-4567 or wescustomerservice@clackamas.us



More information on transit planning, visit www.clackamas.us/planning/transit or contact Project Manager Brett Setterfield at: bsetterfield@clackamas.us

Donate to Dogs in Need



Check out Dog Service's wish list if you are looking for ways to help!

www.clackamas.us/dogs/wishlist.html



Essential workers maintain safety of our roads

Clackamas County is responsible for 1,400 miles of county roads

Our dedicated staff are out on the roads for you. From routine work like striping, sweeping, removing vegetation and inspecting culverts, to seasonal work like filling ruts, keeping ditches clear for runoff and repairing guardrails, traffic signs and signals, our main goal is to help keep travelers safe and roads in good condition throughout the county.



County crews removing debris after the September fires.

Some things we have been doing to keep you safe during and after emergencies like the wildfires include:

- **Erosion prevention:** One of the dangers after wildfires is the risk of erosion, washouts and landslides from slopes that have lost their vegetation. Our teams routinely practice responding to emergency needs, and since the September wildfires, they have been planting vegetation on bare slopes by highways to prevent future problems. We'll be paying close attention to the impacts from these wildfires in the coming months and years.
- **Closing unsafe roads:** To prevent travelers from heading out on potentially unsafe roads, our road crews acted swiftly to close more than 80 roads as requested by emergency

authorities. They then re-opened roadways once it was safe.

- **Keeping roadways clear:** During and after the September fires, road crews have been all over the county removing obstacles from roadways including downed trees, branches and other vegetation, and rocks.
- **Priority response zones:** Clackamas County is sectioned into 21 Disaster Response Zones which allows us to prioritize our response effectively and efficiently by zone. Prioritization levels have allowed us to successfully leverage resources and health/life/safety efforts during disasters as best we can.

funded by vehicle registration fees, is being used to improve roadways throughout the county.

Check for updates at www.clackamas.us/transportation/crf

Community Road Fund: Paving local roads with local dollars

The Community Road Fund (CRF),



Prepping for the winter starts now

Did you know we're already preparing for winter weather? This fall we've been ordering supplies, prepping stockpiles and checking our equipment. We also hold an annual winter response training program to keep skills fresh.

During the winter months, we monitor weather forecasts, proactively treat roads as conditions allow, and keep up with clearing snow and ice during storms.

For more information, visit www.clackamas.us/roads



Help ClackCo "Drive to Zero"

Do your part to be a safe driver and contribute to our goal of zero deaths on county roads by 2035.

www.clackamas.us/drivetozero

Take the Drive to Zero Pledge

I pledge to myself, my loved ones and my community to:

- Be Attentive, Limit Speed, Yield to Pedestrians**
- Buckle Up, Be alert, Be Patient**

#DriveToZero #TrafficSafetyStartsWithMe #JustDrive

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT



Keeping #ClackCo Roads Safe After the Wildfires

Mike "Oakley" Bruck is a ClackCo resident and a member of our traffic maintenance staff. He talks about the work being done to stabilize the shoulders and banks of roads in areas affected by the Clackamas wildfires to make sure everyone can get where they need to go safely.

See the video at: youtu.be/7FQFRjXd9U



Let us know where you see road hazards

Reporting road concerns helps keep our roads safe! Contact us if you see you see safety concerns such as:



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

Three ways to report road concerns:

1. **Website:** www.clackamas.us/transportation/roadconcern
2. **Phone:** 503-557-6391
3. **Email:** RoadConcerns@clackamas.us

Clackamas County Writes

We're inviting the community, especially young people and students, to write letters and create artwork as a way of connecting with older adults in this time of physical distancing.

Learn more at bit.ly/ClackCoWrites

Please remember to toss all hand wipes, baby wipes and other wipes in the trash instead of flushing them down the toilet.

These so-called "flushable" wipes do not disintegrate in water like toilet paper. The vast majority of these products stay fully intact, which means they can clog pipes and cause sewage backups. When wipes make it into the main sewer line, they often get tangled and damage equipment at our wastewater treatment facilities or pump stations, which can cost thousands of dollars to repair or replace.

No wipes are flushable, even if the packaging claims they are. Think about it: these wipes have sat in packaging for months, yet when you pull them out, they are still wet. The fact they don't disintegrate while being removed from the package tells you they will not disintegrate when flushed.



Please remember that toilet paper should be the only thing you flush down the toilet.



County small business grants keep hope and communities alive

Business owners and consumers alike were left reeling when Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home orders in March shuttered thousands of businesses across the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was a tremendously stressful time financially and emotionally for our family," reflected Iwona Erbe, who owns a preschool in Happy Valley.

For mechanical engineer John Staylor, 2020 was initially shaping up to be the best year yet. He had just started a new business in the emerging electric vehicle industry and was leveraging his experience in aerospace for contracts with large companies. And then the pandemic hit.

"The timing was just wrong," Staylor said. "COVID had other plans."

Small businesses are one of the most valuable parts of our economy and county. When small businesses do well, they lift up entire communities. The opposite is also true. This ripple effect, for better or for worse, underscored the need for immediate action.

Clackamas County's Economic Development division in the Business and Community Services Department rose to the occasion to help bring our small

business community much-needed relief in the form of a grant program.

By mid-August the county and partner agency, Micro Enterprise Services of Oregon (MESO), awarded \$420,000 in grants to 145 small businesses that were adversely effected by COVID-19. The funding came from the county and Business Oregon, and the grants ranged from \$2,500 to nearly \$10,000 — all earmarked for small businesses with 25 or fewer employees.

Here are some of their stories.

Navigating an unfamiliar landscape: Online preschool

Iwona Erbe moved from Poland to Oregon with big dreams after graduating college. After she and her husband started a family, she opened IQ Preschool out of her home in NE Portland. It wasn't long before the family uprooted their lives and relocated to a larger house in Happy Valley to accommodate the growing business.

Erbe and her family settled easily into the community, building strong networks with friends and neighbors. Life was good, and so was business. But when the Stay Home order came down earlier this year, Erbe had to close her



Above: Iwona Erbe, owner/director of IQ Preschool, poses with her students prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Left: John Staylor owns Full Fast Technology, a company that provides computer-aided design services for the electric vehicle industry.

doors, a shock compounded by her husband's sudden job loss.

It was a bleak moment, but the Erbe family adapted quickly. Inspired by a parent who was a school teacher, Iwona launched a distance learning program during April and May that was offered to families regardless of their ability to pay tuition.

Operating her business on Zoom was uncharted territory, especially when it came to working with preschoolers. Erbe developed a live, interactive curriculum that included puppets, art, music and cooking to accommodate young attention spans. Her whole family pitched in to make it work, including her husband, son and daughter who play musical instruments.

"I've learned that I have to bring my business to the next level," Erbe said.

Erbe received a \$2,500 grant that will go toward operational costs, equipment such as computers needed for virtual learning and toward an outdoor sink for children to wash their hands when limited in-person school is allowed.

The grant heralds a forgotten feeling: hope. With it, Erbe is able to gear up for the new school year. "I can do this now," she said.

Cont. on page 26

Clackamas legislators rise to prominence

Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego)

The 2021 state legislative session promises to be one of the toughest in years as the state works to address the ongoing public health crisis, social unrest and a devastating wildfire season, all at a time when state revenues have plummeted. Each of the 21 legislators representing Clackamas County has a unique role in helping

to address these challenges, and 2021 promises new opportunities for them to make a difference.

The work of the legislature is determined in large part on decisions made by House and Senate leadership. Holding a position in leadership allows a legislator a greater ability to

influence outcomes. A few short years ago, the Clackamas delegation had little seniority or clout. Today, our delegation holds leadership positions in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle!

“Holding a leadership position means having a front-row seat in making key decisions that shape a legislative session and benefit your constituents,” says Dave Hunt, Gladstone resident and former House Speaker.

Collectively, county legislators represent roughly 420,000 residents, or 10% of the state’s overall population. Clackamas County works closely with these legislators throughout the year to incorporate the perspectives and priorities of our residents into their work. These legislators are now positioned to amplify the voices of our communities.

Senator Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) is one of many Clackamas County legislators now serving in a leadership

Cont. on page 26

Large-scale community project moving forward

Despite the challenges that have come with 2020, a large-scale project bringing a new community center, park and two libraries to Oak Lodge and Gladstone is moving full speed ahead.

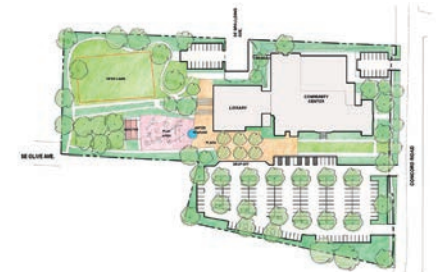
After a year of analysis, design work and extensive community outreach, the two project task forces unanimously agreed on preferred design alternatives for the Concord Property and Gladstone Library.

This milestone follows a quick, but fluid shift to digital operations in response to COVID-19. Since March, the design team and task forces have conducted all meetings and outreach activities virtually, maintaining vital momentum on the project.

This past summer, residents weighed in on three design alternatives for each site and gave feedback on which ones best met the needs of their communities.



Gladstone Library preferred design alternative



Concord Property preferred design alternative

Community desires aligned with the task forces’ recommendations.

Now, the project team is refining the preferred alternatives before recommending them to the Board of County Commissioners in late fall. The refined, approved alternatives for each site will be shared publicly at a community event later in the year.

Sign up for the project newsletter, updates and meeting information at www.clackamas.us/communityproject

The new community center, park and Oak Lodge Library will be on the site of the North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District (NCPRD)-owned Concord Property near the corner of Concord Road and McLoughlin Boulevard.

The new Gladstone Library will be located at the previous Gladstone City Hall site at 525 Portland Avenue.

WE ARE YOUR LINCC TO...



Virtual Programming



Movies and Music



E-books and E-audiobooks



Materials for Pick-Up



LIBRARIES
IN CLACKAMAS COUNTY



Online Educational Resources

Free flu vaccinations



Dec. 2 | Dec. 9
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Boring Fire Station
28655 SE Hwy 212,
Boring, OR 97009

* Free COVID-19 testing available

Supplies are limited and please leave pets at home.

Masks are required at all events.

Please stay home if you are sick.

www.clackamas.us/publichealth



#ClackCo TV is Your Source

for Clackamas County News and Information



We’re telling the stories of our communities, exploring unique locations, learning about our rich history, and meeting the hardworking people and businesses that keep our area moving.

We’re making government more accessible and providing vital information about county services. We are #ClackCo TV. We are Clackamas County.

#ClackCo TV

Find us on your local cable provider:
www.clackamas.us/cable

Subscribe and follow! @ClackamasCounty





Safely dispose of toxic products at a hazardous waste facility

The improper disposal of household items like pesticides, paints, and cleaners can cause fires, explosions or the release of toxins into the air, soil and water. For the same reasons, it is important not to dispose of your household hazardous materials in the sink or toilet, on the ground or down a storm drain.

To properly dispose of these materials, take them to the Metro South Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Oregon City.

Metro South Household Hazardous Waste Facility

2001 Washington St.,
Oregon City
503-234-3000
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily
\$5 for up to 35 gallons of hazardous waste

Reduce Toxicity at Home

Use these tips to minimize hazardous waste and protect you and your family's health:

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



Recycle Guide

Your guide to what goes where in Clackamas County.
View a more extensive guide at www.clackamas.us/recycling/recycleguide.html

Available in 7 languages online!



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.



Will bad weather impact my garbage collection?



Stay in the know! Sign up for service alerts, notifications, and reminders.



Reminders and service alerts by email, text, or phone call



View and print your waste collection calendar

When bad weather affects our region, your garbage and recycling service may be disrupted—even if your street is drivable. Contact your garbage company to see if collection has been postponed due to unsafe road conditions, or sign up for service alerts.



Learn more at:

www.clackamas.us/recycling/garbage/company.html

This service is provided by Clackamas County's Sustainability and Solid Waste Program, on behalf of the Clackamas County Recycling Partnership, including Clackamas County, Barlow, Canby, Estacada, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Molalla, Oregon City, Sandy, West Linn and Wilsonville, and local garbage and recycling companies.



Garbage

Basura
Мусор

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/findarecycler







Clackamas County Sustainability & Solid Waste - 503-557-6363 - www.clackamas.us/recycling

Instagram @recycleornot



Recycle or Not?

How to sort the most confusing items

 <p>Round container (over 6 oz)</p>	 <p>Plastic lid</p>	 <p>Plastic take out container</p>
 <p>Padded envelope</p>	 <p>Plastic bag</p>	 <p>Soup carton</p>

You can make a difference! Learn how to recycle right

Because so many people in Clackamas County recycle, together we are making a difference. But trash in the recycling causes problems here in Oregon and around the world. Take a few minutes to learn what can and can't go in your recycling bin:

- 1. Ignore recycling symbols on items**
These symbols do not mean you can recycle the item in Clackamas County.
- 2. Check the recycling guide**
Be sure to follow Clackamas County's guide, since recycling can be different outside of the greater Portland area.
- 3. If you're not sure, put it in the trash**
It may feel wrong, but you're protecting the environment by putting trash in the garbage.

We give virtual recycling presentations!

Learn more by calling 503-557-6363

Not sure? Send a pic!

Next time you aren't sure about an item, send a photo to [@recycleornot](https://www.instagram.com/recycleornot) on Instagram.

Learn more at RecycleOrNot.org



Don't have Instagram? Call for your recycling questions: 503-234-3000

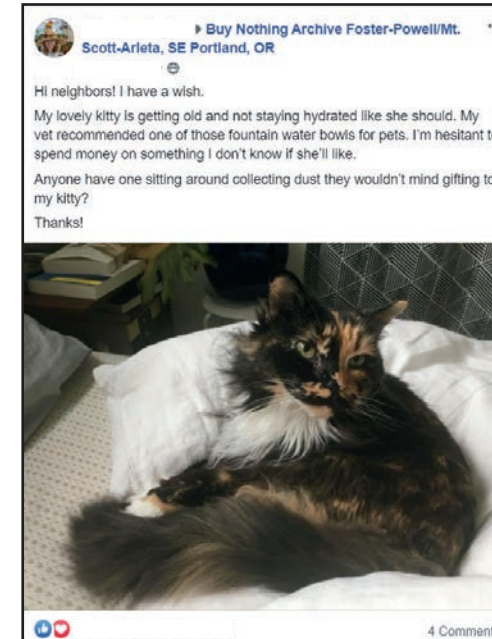
A community of giving and sharing: How the Buy Nothing Project connects neighbors

As Alysha Newbloom packed away her summer clothes, she put the items she planned on never wearing again in a box to give away—not to a resell store, but to her local Buy Nothing Facebook group.

"I really like having my stuff going free to neighbors," Alysha said, who has been an admin for the Oak Grove South Buy Nothing group for two years.

The Buy Nothing Project is a grass-roots collection of Facebook groups encouraging people to post anything they would like to give away, lend, or share among neighbors, and to ask for anything they'd like to receive for free or borrow. The rules are simple: keep it legal, civil, and no buying, selling, trading or bartering. While the project has Facebook groups in over 30 nations, each group is hyper local; Oregon City alone has five, and Clackamas County overall has 27. It's about giving where you live, building resilient community, and keeping things out of the landfill.

People join for many reasons, such as getting rid of things they no longer need or to save money by getting things for free. They quickly learn the group's primary benefit is its ability to connect neighbors who may have never met otherwise.



Example post from Facebook

Alysha strongly agrees. When she walks past the homes in her neighborhood, she often reflects on how she may have never known who lived there if not for the Buy Nothing group. "I've met other parents at my son's school, including parents of children in his class," Alysha said. She is also now friends with a member whom she'd gifted a bag of books. She and another member have gifted items back and forth enough, that last time the member came by she'd

brought a jar of jalapeno blueberry jelly just to say thank you.

Recently, Alysha posted cardboard boxes. "I like seeing if anyone can use them for moving, but the person who picked them up turned them into cars, creating a drive-through movie theater night for their kids." She has also recently posted a Columbia fleece onesie and a box of summer clothing she'd set aside.

While people commonly post clothing and household goods, they can also offer or ask for time and services. "Recently people have offered to bring coffee to those who could use a cup of cheer, math tutoring for kids, knitting lessons over Zoom, and even public notary services," Alysha said. "Some people have asked for help on their resumes, too."

Many Buy Nothing groups stopped or limited posts to essential items in the early days of the pandemic, but most are back up and running while encouraging no-contact pick-up and drop off.

Have Facebook and interested in joining your local Buy Nothing group? Search "Buy Nothing" and the name of your neighborhood on Facebook, or visit www.buynothingproject.org/find-a-group/

Test your knowledge!

Which items belong in your home recycling bin and which belong in the trash?



chip bag

VS.



dairy container

VS.



cookie box

VS.



to-go box

VS.



coffee cup

VS.



milk carton

Have fun? Play the online game at www.recycleornot.org

Answers: chip bag - trash, dairy container - recycling, cookie box - recycling, to-go box - trash, coffee cup - recycling, milk carton - recycling

Water Environment Services awards more than \$287k in grants through RiverHealth Stewardship Program



Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) awarded \$287,670 in grants earlier this year through its RiverHealth Stewardship Program to 11 organizations dedicated to improving the health of watersheds within the surface water areas served by WES.

Since 2013, RiverHealth Grants have supported a variety of activities that

restore habitat, manage invasive plant species, organize community volunteer events, provide watershed science education and remove trash from waterways while enhancing water quality.

The grants, which are funded by WES surface water revenue, are awarded to community groups, non-profits, businesses, schools and other organizations who must first demonstrate how they will use the funds to improve watershed health.

“WES is grateful to the community groups and dozens of volunteers we work with to improve our watershed health, which benefits us all,” said Gail Shaloum, WES RiverHealth Stewardship Program Manager.

Here is a list of the 2020 RiverHealth Stewardship Program Grant recipients:

- Clackamas River Basin Council
- Clackamas River Community Cooperative
- Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon Backyard Habitat Program
- Ecology in Classrooms & Outdoors
- Friends of Trees
- Happy Valley Heights Home Owners Association
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
- North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District
- North Clackamas Watersheds Council
- Rivers of Life Center

To learn more about the RiverHealth Stewardship Grant Program, visit www.clackamas.us/wes

WES joins partnership to make art, local waterways a beautiful project



Visitors to Happy Valley Park are getting an eyeful of colorful art and an education on protecting area waterways, thanks to a unique partnership between Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES), the City of Happy Valley and Portraits in Prose, Ink.

The goal is to educate park-goers on ways to protect our rivers and streams.

To get the message across, Sarah Miller, who is the artist/owner of Portraits in Prose, Ink, uses catch

basins and manhole covers in the park as her canvas, as well as murals to bring awareness to the impacts of stormwater on stream health and what residents can do in their daily lives to reduce these impacts.

“All catch basins and manholes potentially drain to streams. The hope is to connect people through this art to the impacts our drainage has to our waterways,” said Chris Randall, Public Works Director, City of Happy Valley.

Of her paintings, Miller said, “These are creatures in our watershed we are trying to protect. We want to protect our fish, our wildlife and our plant life, as well.”

Miller also created a banner for the off-leash dog park, which reminds dog owners to clean up after their pets. Park-goers can also photograph

friends and family members in front of the dragonfly wing mural on the outside wall of the restroom building.



For more information, visit www.clackamas.us/education



WES brings new digester online to expand wastewater treatment capacity

Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) marked a major milestone in its Tri-City Solids Project, which is designed to ensure wastewater treatment needs of more than 190,000 county residents are met for decades to come.

A new 1.3 million gallon anaerobic digester, built over a two-year period at WES’ Tri-City Water Resource Recovery facility in Oregon City, was successfully brought online in September.

Anaerobic digestion is similar to composting but in an oxygen-free environment. Naturally occurring microorganisms break down organic waste and produce gas. The new digester expands the facility’s capacity to treat solids — a byproduct of waste from homes and businesses.

“This infrastructure is going to give us the capacity we need for the growth of our businesses and residential communities,” said Laura Edmonds, Chair of the North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce.

“This project is part of WES’ mission to protect public health, clean rivers and the economy,” said WES Director Greg Geist. “WES is committed to creating a legacy of stewardship and a strong

infrastructure that will protect and serve our communities today and well into the future.”

Along with the facility’s two existing digesters, the new digester will turn waste into methane gas that is converted to heat and power. In turn, that methane gas provides nearly half of the electricity used at the Tri-City facility. The digester process also converts solid waste into a natural fertilizer.

The new digester was needed to accommodate a population that has more than doubled over the past 30 years. In addition to protecting public health and the environment, it will protect future economic growth in the region.

Each year, WES cleans more than seven billion gallons of wastewater.

The project will be completed in 2021.



Top: View of the digester at Tri-City Water Resource Recovery facility in Oregon City

Center: Looking through the new digester view port to verify mixing

Above: WES leaders touring the new digester complex

For more information, visit www.clackamas.us/wes





WES partners with SOLVE for cleanups



Top and above: volunteers help cleanup 3-Creeks Natural Area in Milwaukie as part of the Summer Waterway Cleanups.

For the third consecutive year, Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES) partnered with the nonprofit SOLVE in a series of Summer Waterway Cleanups to keep area streams, rivers and communities clean and healthy.

The 2020 series kicked off on Aug. 7 at 3-Creeks Natural Area in Milwaukie, which is owned by WES. SOLVE staff worked with event leaders to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines, including physical distancing, to keep volunteers safe.

At the Milwaukie event, which covered about 77 acres, more than 20 volunteers collected 300 pounds of litter in addition to a shopping cart, a large metal road sign and two tires. Participants learned firsthand how objects on the ground can end up in waterways if not removed due to stormwater runoff, and that litter is a leading cause of water pollution in Oregon.

“What we learn from WES, and what they are able to teach our volunteers about the importance of keeping our waterways clean is really valuable,” said Kris Carico, SOLVE, Chief Executive Officer.

“Many volunteers come with their families, which is great because the kids learn how to protect water quality, which will hopefully lead to us having clean water well into the future,” said Gail Shaloum, WES Natural Resources Scientist.

WES is dedicated to educating community members from all walks of life, from developers, property managers and homeowners to government agencies, local businesses, teachers and students.

WES’ Surface Water Management Program provides water quality protection by implementing programs to reduce pollution in our rivers, streams and wetlands caused by urban stormwater runoff, a leading source of water pollution in Oregon.

SOLVE restores and preserves Oregon’s environment by mobilizing the power of volunteers and partners. Before 2020, SOLVE traditionally worked with 30,000 volunteers at 1,000 cleanup events across Oregon and remove 300,000 pounds of trash.

Sheriff Roberts announces retirement

Honoring four decades of a career in service

Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts has announced his retirement, capping a career that included four terms leading the Sheriff’s Office, where he started as a reserve deputy in 1979.

Hired full-time in 1982, Roberts served the Sheriff’s Office in SWAT, patrol and an undercover narcotics unit before his promotion to detective. His work as a child-abuse detective affected him profoundly: “I saw firsthand the impact and long-term consequences neglect, abuse and witnessing violence had on children,” he said.

Roberts’ career was changed by that experience. As a detective, he helped launch CCSO’s Child Abuse Team and helped launch the Child Abuse & Family Violence Summit in 1999; led the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team (DVERT) as its director; and worked with local leaders, including Russ Reinhard of Providence Willamette Falls Medical Center, to create the Children’s Center of Clackamas County.

After he took the oath of Sheriff in January 2005, Roberts continued his efforts to break the cycle of abuse. He helped spearhead the creation of A Safe Place, the first Family Justice Center in Oregon, bringing together a wide range of domestic-violence services under one roof in Oregon City. He also launched the National Family Violence Apprehension Detail — a coordinated warrant sweep by law enforcement agencies across the country — and formed INTERCEPT, a multi-agency team investigating online predators who target children.

Sheriff Roberts also formed the award-winning Clackamas County Inter-agency Task Force (CCITF) — a team effort by local, state and federal law enforcement to reduce illegal drugs and related crimes, including child endangerment.



In 2016, the Department of Defense presented Sheriff Roberts (at right, pictured with Deputy John Zagya) with its “Freedom Award.” The award honored Sheriff Roberts for his efforts in Oregon on behalf of employees who also serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

During his four terms, Roberts also launched initiatives to help the Sheriff’s Office better meet the needs of individuals with mental illness. He introduced regular Crisis Intervention Team training to the Sheriff’s Office just after his election, preparing deputies for encounters with persons in mental crisis. He also worked with Clackamas County’s Health, Housing and Human Services to create a Behavioral Health Unit (BHU). BHU mental-health clinicians work alongside deputies to follow up with individuals who have had contact with law enforcement to get them any needed mental-health services.

During his tenure, Roberts also successfully passed a levy that re-staffed and restored beds to the Clackamas County Jail. He also consolidated Sheriff’s Office services under one roof at a new Sunnybrook Boulevard headquarters; co-founded and served as chair of the Oregon Task Force on School Safety, which spurred the creation of the SafeOregon tip line; pushed for the Sheriff’s Office to earn accreditation through the Oregon Accreditation

Alliance; and advocated for veterans — lobbying for the 2015 passage of legislation allowing Oregon public agencies to supplement the military pay received by employees who serve in the National Guard or Reserves.

He also saw the Sheriff’s Office through national-headline crises including the 2012 active-shooter incident at Clackamas Town Center and the recent large-scale Clackamas County wildfires, which required unprecedented evacuations. In 2019 he served as President of the Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association.

“Looking back, I’m most proud of the work of the men and women of the Sheriff’s Office, both sworn and non-sworn,” he said. “There isn’t enough space to list all the kind deeds, heroic efforts, and successes I’ve witnessed during my tenure.”

Roberts will be succeeded as Sheriff by his current Undersheriff Angela Brandenburg, who won the office in the May primary.

Economic Development supports businesses impacted by COVID-19

Since March, Clackamas County's Business and Community Services' Economic Development Division has focused its expertise.

Identifying and providing support for businesses that were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has been the division's top priority.

Economic Development, in cooperation with the county's Emergency Operations Center, has been providing PPE (personal protective equipment) by request, grants for small businesses and a Who's Open app for businesses to advertise their availability. More than \$400,000 in small business grants have already been awarded, and more grant opportunities are coming. Staff is also working with Micro Enterprise Systems of Oregon (MESO) to support businesses owned by people from historically-disadvantaged populations.

Cont. from page 15

More than a grant — a lifeline

For John Staylor, owner of Full Fast Technology, the effects of COVID-19 on his new electric vehicle business started as a trickle effect.

"As other industries slow down, so does mine," he explained.

Staylor started his company with 30 years of diverse experience in mechanical design. Although his company focuses on electric vehicles, he still consults on aerospace projects.

Staylor's work can be seen right in the Clackamas County community. One of his most recent projects involved working on the Willamette Shore Trolley, a streetcar that uses electric vehicle technology to provide transportation from Lake Oswego to Portland.

The economic impacts of COVID-19 hit his electric vehicle clients hard, forcing them to reduce or drop his services. To make matters worse, a decrease in air travel resulted in the loss of his aerospace projects.

As work fizzled, things began to look

bad. The grant funds came at a crucial time for Staylor.

"They say timing is everything," he said. "You have extended to me a lifeline to keep me in business."

The \$2,500 grant will help Staylor purchase needed computer equipment, pay for internet service, make a mortgage payment and invest in advertising. While the funds help keep him afloat, Staylor acknowledges this remains a tenuous situation. He isn't out of the woods yet, and says he's counting on the economy improving.

He looks forward to the days when his skillset will be back in demand.

At the end of the day, Staylor said he considers himself "one of the luckier ones."

Learn about COVID-19 Resources for Businesses Business and Community Services Economic Development Division 503-742-4249 | 4biz@clackamas.us www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/business

Cont. from page 16

role. In May, Senator Wagner was elected Senate Majority Leader by his colleagues. In this role, he drives the passage of the Senate Democrats' legislative agenda and works with all legislators to pursue policies that support Oregonians in every corner of the state. "I am honored to serve as the Senate Majority Leader and to represent the interests of Clackamas County residents during these difficult and transformative times," says Senator Wagner. "As we address our many challenges ahead – wildfire recovery, pandemic response, and our children's education – I am committed to working with my colleagues to do what's right for our county and state."

In addition to leadership positions, Clackamas legislators know the power of working together. In 2018, Rep. Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley) joined forces with Rep. Christine Drazan (R-Canby) to form the bipartisan Clackamas Caucus, consisting of 16 Clackamas legislators who work together to advance shared priorities. In just the last two years, the Caucus has made significant progress on the County Courthouse Replacement Project, I-205 bottleneck and Willamette Falls Locks.

Learn more about Clackamas County's legislative priorities at: www.clackamas.us/countypriorities

Clackamas legislative leaders

Sen. Rob Wagner
Senate Majority Leader

Sen. Fred Girod
Senate Republican Leader

Rep. Christine Drazan
House Republican Leader

Rep. Mark Meek
Assistant Majority Leader

Rep. Karin Power
Assistant Majority Leader

Rep. Andrea Salinas
Assistant Majority Leader

Rep. Daniel Bonham
Deputy House Republican Leader

Rep. Rick Lewis
House Republican Assistant Leader

Clackamas County employee makes history



Kelly Blixhavn, Behavioral Health Care Coordinator

Kelly Blixhavn, a Behavioral Health Care Coordinator in the Behavioral Health Division at the county, recently became the first Clackamas County employee to receive the prestigious Robert Phillips Regional Diversity Award.

Blixhavn, a lifelong advocate and someone who is fiercely passionate about equity and social justice, finds great satisfaction in elevating the voice of youth experience. She said she is living her childhood dream of "helping kids who have experienced trauma."

Blixhavn has served local communities in multiple roles, including managing/supporting Wraparound teams, overseeing the Applied Behavior Analysis benefit for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, sitting on the Clackamas County Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Team, the Peer Services Advisory Council, and the Trauma Informed Care Committee. She has also co-chaired and trained with the Clackamas Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Coalition.

For 8 years, Blixhavn volunteered at The Living Room of Clackamas County – a local organization that creates safe spaces through community education and collaborations for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (GLBTQQ) youth -- as the Program Director and as a member of the Board of Directors. She was recruited by the two original founders of The Living Room to design and oversee the implementation of all programming and data collection practices. She has presented at the Human Rights Campaign's Time to Thrive Conference, at the Meaningful Care Conference, and at the Oregon Safe Schools Awards Ceremony in this capacity.

"This award is a great honor, and I'm proud to be the first Clackamas County employee to receive it. I also want to honor the fact that the fight against oppression must continue until everyone is heard, seen, and safe in our communities."
- Kelly Blixhavn

Blixhavn was a founding member of Clackamas County's first Employee Resource Group, Queers & Allies (Q&A) in 2014. She became a co-chair of the group in 2017, and has helped the group provide the Clackamas workplace with numerous tangible advances in queer related equity. A few of these accomplishments include:

- Inclusive restroom/changing room/locker room signage respecting gender identities, in six languages.
- Pronoun Challenges (challenges to Q&A members to add pronouns to their email signatures, to virtual platform name titles, at the beginning of meetings, and to

business cards when appropriate/ approved).

- Support for and contracts with Black, Indigenous and People of color (BIPOC) and queer-owned businesses.
- Advocacy for changing county policies to be inclusive of queer identities.
- Increased visibility of queer related holidays/days of significance, specifically Transgender Day of Remembrance, Transgender Day of Visibility, and Pride month.
- Clackamas County's involvement in the NW Pride Parade and Festival. Since Pride was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Blixhavn initiated efforts to repurpose Q&A's allocated Pride budget to be awarded to a local queer or BIPOC owned business hit hard by COVID.
- Advocating for and securing funding for trainings for county employees to increase understanding of and safety/support for queer employees.

"Kelly's passion and dedication to making Clackamas County an equitable place to live and work is appreciated and respected. She is so deserving of this recognition."
- Gary Schmidt

The Robert Phillips Regional Diversity Award is named for the Affirmative Action Officer at Multnomah County. Phillips has worked in the area of equal employment opportunity for more than 25 years, creating policies and programs that achieve the goals of diversity and inclusiveness for all. He has long history of involvement in the civil rights field, and made numerous contributions to equity work in his community.



Veterans Service Office is on your side

The Clackamas County Veterans Service Office assists veterans and their eligible dependents to obtain benefits earned through military service. Certified Veteran Service Officers provide expert information and help with:

- Compensation for service-related injuries
- Pension for eligible veterans
- Claims and appeals preparation
- Enrolling in VA health care
- Applying for VA Aid and Attendance benefits
- Obtaining burial benefits
- Getting eligibility certificates for state and federal VA home loans
- Provide information and referral to other state and federal benefits and community resources including educational benefits, employment and training and home loans

For more information

Veterans Service Office
503-650-5631 or
veterans@clackamas.us

**Coordinated Housing Access
(homeless housing or
homelessness prevention)**
503-655-8575

Homeless Veterans Outreach
503-650-5775

Note: All services are being offered remotely to maintain community safety due to COVID 19.



One veteran's journey

Veterans Village is a transitional shelter in Clackamas that helps veterans get back on their feet.

Jack didn't exactly plan on ending up in the Pacific Northwest. He is an Oklahoma native, after all, where he worked drilling oil and gas wells.

But through unexpected circumstances, he suddenly found himself without what many of us take for granted – a place he called home. Fortunately, though, the Housing Authority of Clackamas County was able to help him.

It all started in the fall of 1969. He was drafted into the US Army, where he served for a number of years until he was medically discharged.

After his retirement in 2015, Jack found his way to Oregon. After a visit with his daughter and grandchildren in North Bend, moving to Oregon was the next step.

"They told me to stay," he said. "Of course, I liked it up here, so I stayed."

Jack rented a house in North Bend for two years with his daughter. Then the unexpected happened.

"The [landlord] sold it out from underneath us, and we had to move," Jack said.

The family made their way to Portland, with the hopes of finding more stable

career opportunities. Unfortunately, jobs weren't found as quickly as anticipated, and the family struggled to find affordable housing in the area. Jack's daughter found refuge at a women's shelter. Jack, meanwhile, was connected with Do Good Multnomah, which runs the Clackamas County Veterans Village, a transitional shelter in Clackamas.

"I like it," Jack said. "I like all the guys here. Everybody's really sociable here. Everybody talks to each other. We take care of each other."

Jack would later move from Veterans Village into his own apartment at Clayton Mohr Commons in Oregon City — a permanent supportive housing complex where Do Good Multnomah also provides supportive services. Jack made the move just prior to Thanksgiving in 2019.

"I've got my own bathroom, shower," Jack said. "Makes it a lot easier when you've got your own space."

Jack didn't plan on taking this bumpy journey to Oregon, but however he got there, he now has a place to call home.

Editor's note: Jack's name was changed to protect his privacy.



Coping with holiday stress

While COVID-19 continues to be a factor in our lives, celebrating the holidays may look different this year. Try to prevent stress — and perhaps make things a little better — with these tips:

Acknowledge your feelings. Don't try to force joy just because it's the holiday season. If you can't be with loved ones because of COVID-19, realize that it is normal to feel sadness and grief. And if you can express these feelings to a trusted loved one, all the better.

Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out virtual or socially-distanced events in your community. Pick up the phone and call an old friend. There are still others out there who want to offer you connection and support.

Rethink expectations. Be open to creating new traditions. For example, if you can't have your usual holiday gathering, find a way to celebrate together virtually – have dinner "together," exchange videos and photos, and stay connected.

Don't abandon healthy habits.

Remember that moderation is best. Overdoing it rarely helps anything, and makes us feel worse in the long run. Prioritize sleep and get at least a little exercise daily.

Learn your holiday triggers. Find out what provokes your holiday stress — These are experiences that remind us of holidays past and make us feel worse. If you can avoid these during the holidays, you may prevent stress; and if you can't avoid them, at least you'll be aware of what's bringing you down.

Seek additional support. Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious, overwhelmed by physical complaints, unable to sleep, irritable and hopeless, or unable to face routine responsibilities. If these feelings last for a while, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional. This can be more helpful than you might expect.

You are not alone.

The Clackamas County Crisis and Support line is staffed by trained professionals who care about your wellness.



Call us at
503-655-8585
We are here for you.

Housing Authority selects Metro Bond proposals

The Housing Authority of Clackamas County Board and Metro approved the first three proposals to be funded by \$116 million allocated by the Metro Affordable Housing Bond, passed by voters in 2018.

Combined, the developments will create 413 new housing units, or 51% of the county's goal of developing 812 units using bond funds. More than \$44 million in bond funds and 125 project-based vouchers are committed to the combined developments.

The awarded developments are:

Fuller Station, 9608 S.E. Fuller Road in unincorporated Clackamas County

This proposal by Geller, Silvis and Associates was awarded approximately \$10 million. Residents of this future site will benefit from nearby employment

opportunities, recreational and educational facilities within walking distance and access to transit and services. This 100-unit development will fulfill 8% of the county's bond goal.

Good Shepherd Village, 12596 S.E. 162nd Ave. in Happy Valley

The 142-unit project was put forth by Caritas Housing Corp. & Catholic Charities. It will cost an estimated \$18 million and will fulfill 16% of the county's goal. Residents will benefit from nearby public transit, grocery stores, schools, a public library and multiple parks and recreation areas. There are also medical facilities nearby.

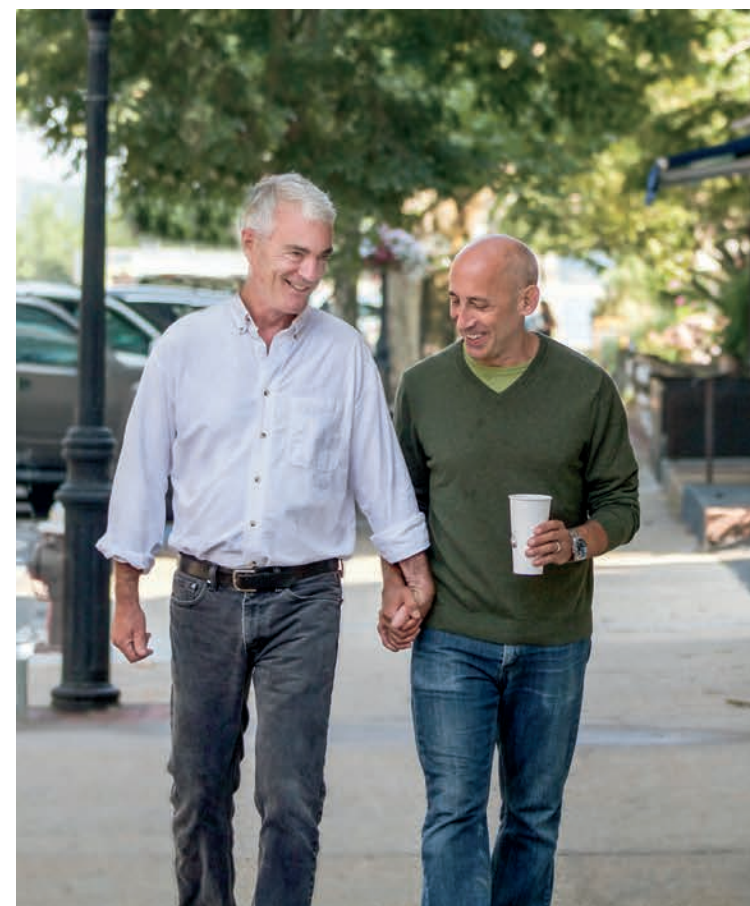
The Maple Apartments, located in Oregon City

Proposed by Community Development Partners & Hacienda Community

Development Corp., this 171-unit project will cost roughly \$16 million and will fulfill 14% of the county's housing goal. The site, located less than a half-mile from Clackamas Community College, is near multiple grocery stores and pharmacies, and is transit-adjacent.

The developments will continue toward final approval by gathering community input, finalizing programming and services, securing land-use approvals and permits, and procuring any additional financing needed. Clackamas County and Metro will review the projects after those steps are completed, before providing final approval for funding.

The next round of Metro Bond funding is slated for release in 2022.



Have questions about aging or disability services? **We can help!**

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

Clackamas County
503-650-5622

Statewide
1-855-ORE-ADRC
(673-2372)

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Resource Connection
of OREGON

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Clear Storm Drains to Protect Your Property and Our Water

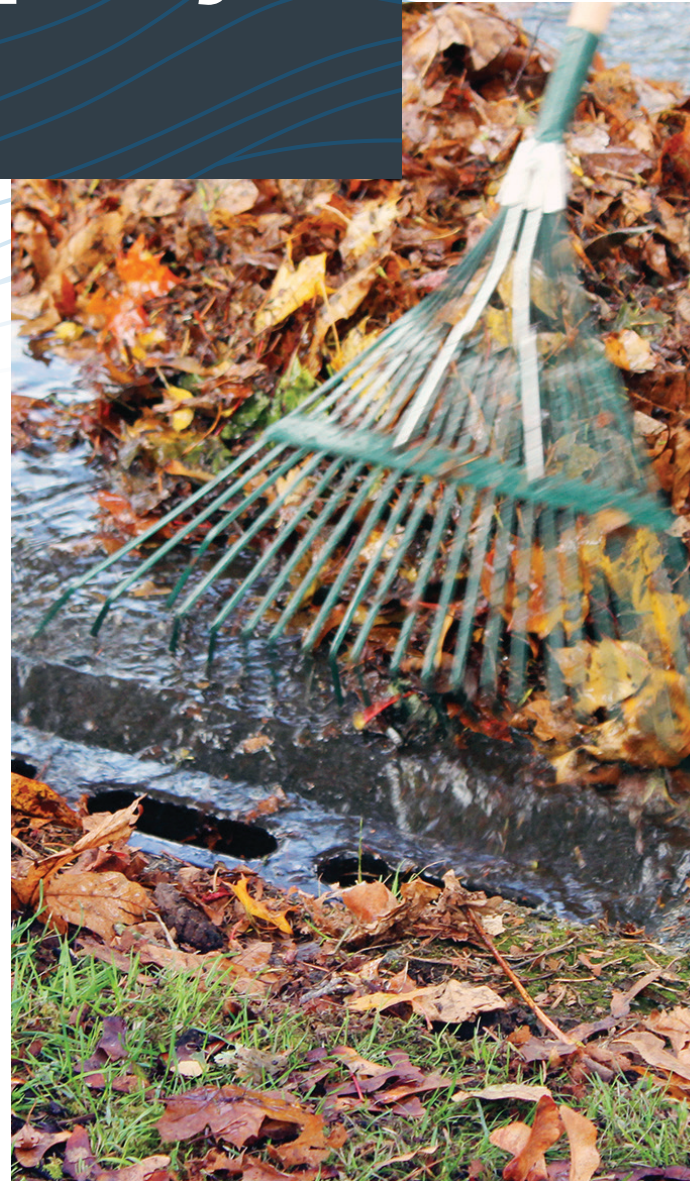
Regularly clearing your storm drains of leaves and debris helps reduce flooding and property damage while protecting watershed health and the quality of our drinking water.

Follow these tips:

- Find the storm drain grates in the street by your home or business and clear them of leaves and debris.
- Use a rake or pitchfork to clear leaves, limbs, and debris from the storm drain. Do not try to remove the grate, only the debris on top of it.
- When leaves fall into the street, rake them at least one foot away from the curb so they won't block the path of rainwater. Please do not rake or blow leaves from your yard into the street.
- Never dump anything into a storm drain.

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



CLACKAMAS

**WATER
ENVIRONMENT
SERVICES**