



# West Linn Update

OCTOBER 2010

## Maintain the System... Sustain the Resource!

Your November 2, 2010 general election ballot will include Measure 3-364, which would provide for a new water pricing system that would allow the City of West Linn to base your monthly water bill on water consumption to promote water conservation, and to invest in water infrastructure projects.

This proposed pricing structure is referred to as "conservation pricing." Customers using less water would be charged less; while customers using more water would be charged more, based on the number of units of water consumed. Learn more about conservation pricing in this edition of the "Update."



"Honey, take a look at our West Linn water bill - we only used three units of water this month, but the City's base rate charges for seven units!"

### What does Measure 3-364 do?

- Change water billing to a conservation rate
- Phase-in the rate increase over three years beginning January 2011 to fund projects
- Begin work on \$21 million in Water Master Plan system projects

"That's because the current billing structure is fundamentally flawed related to water conservation - right now, even if our family conserves and only uses three units of water, we are still billed for seven. That's unfair."



### How does conservation pricing work?

- Currently, the City charges a base rate to all users that includes seven units of water.
- A switch to conservation pricing would lower the base rate rate and would charge customers for each unit of water they use.

More Q&As on page two...



"The current billing structure seems unfair - not just to our pocketbook, but also to the environment. Water pricing should be based on water consumption - that's the fair way to provide a conservation incentive!"

"The City of West Linn wants to change the billing method to be more fair and to ensure our drinking water system is maintained. To do this, the Charter requires West Linn voters to approve this change on the November 2, 2010 ballot."



### Look Inside For More Information:

Q&A about conservation pricing.....Page 2

Community water rate comparisons.....Page 2

Public health & safety implications.....Page 3

System investment priorities.....Page 3

## How Does Conservation Pricing Affect Your Bill?

Conservation pricing bases a monthly water bill on water consumption. Test the effects of the proposed conservation pricing structure on your family's monthly water consumption using the City's online calculator:

<http://westlinnoregon.gov/water-rate-calculator>



## Why is the City asking for voter approval?

- The West Linn Charter requires voter approval for water rate increases greater than five percent.
- The implementation of conservation pricing may increase water rates by more than five percent for high volume water users in one or more years of the three-year phase-in.

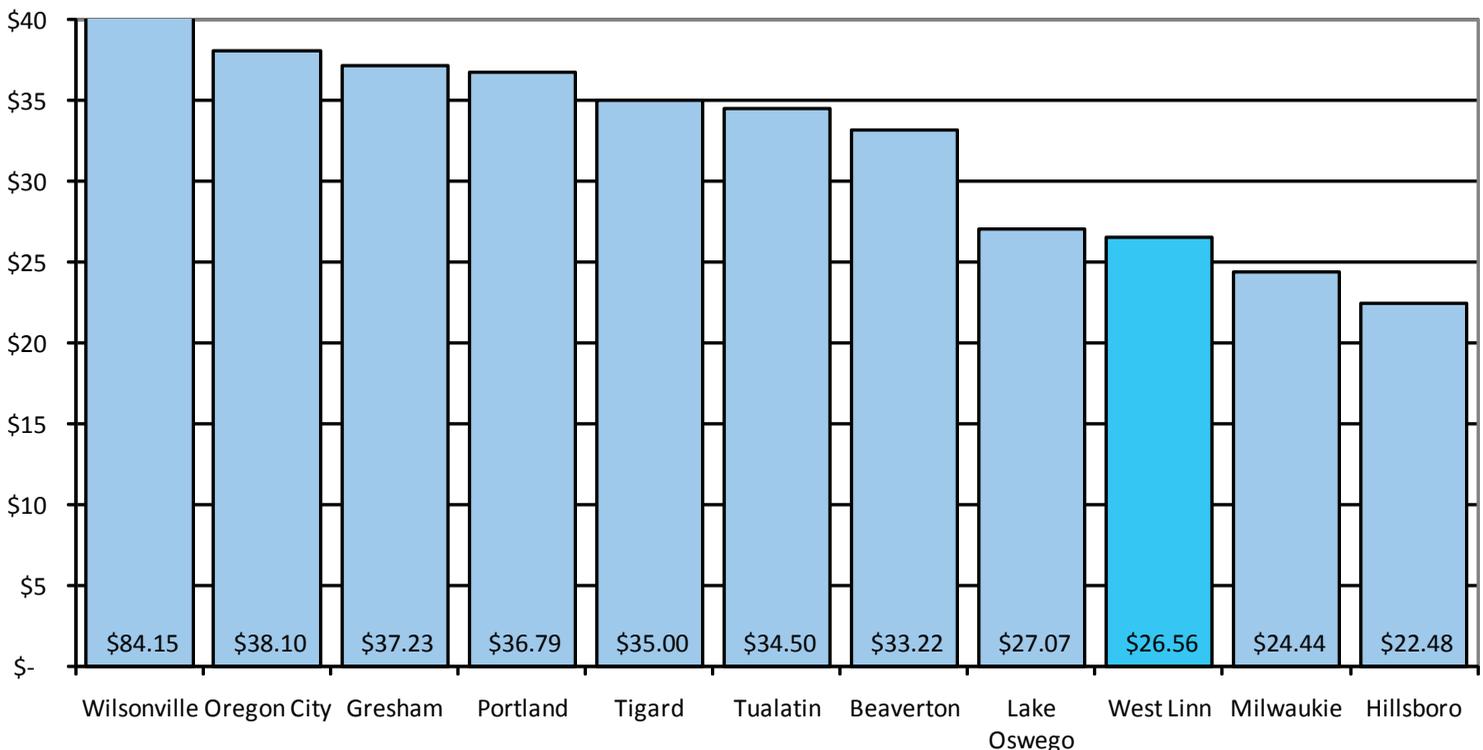
## Is Measure 3-364 a Charter change?

- No. Approval of this measure would not change the Charter provision requiring a vote on rate increases.
- Any future rate changes greater than five percent would continue to be subject to voter approval.

The chart below shows a comparison of neighboring cities' average monthly water bills. The chart indicates that even with conservation pricing, West Linn's water is still significantly cheaper than Oregon City's<sup>1</sup>.

### Comparison of Neighboring Cities' Average Monthly Water Bills

*Hypothetical FY 2013: Assumes West Linn adopts conservation pricing, and projects five percent annual increases for all other cities*



<sup>1</sup>West Linn and Oregon City jointly own Southfork Water Board, so the wholesale cost of water is the same in both communities.

## West Linn Values Clean & Safe Drinking Water

- According to the Water Master Plan, much of the current water system is decades old and if left unmaintained, could threaten the safety of drinking water and livability.
- A recent community survey showed that West Linn residents value safe, clean drinking water and sustainable practices including water conservation.
- This proposed conservation pricing structure could provide funding for the water infrastructure projects identified in the Master Plan that could ensure a safe, properly-maintained water system and may prevent costly system failures that could result from a lack of routine maintenance and necessary capital upkeep.
- Providing safe, clean water is a fundamental public health and safety service offered by the City.



## Water Master Plan Projects Protect West Linn's Water System



- The adopted Water Master Plan includes \$21 million in infrastructure projects that directly affect availability of clean drinking water and the emergency water supply.
- West Linn owns and operates its drinking water distribution system that distributes water to all homes and businesses in West Linn through a system of six reservoirs, five pump stations and 118 miles of water transmission lines.
- The Water Master Plan projects include line replacements, emergency supply connection improvements, and renovations to the 97-year-old Bolton Reservoir.
- \$21 million in projects on the Master Plan list are within the existing city boundaries and these projects are not designed to serve areas outside of West Linn.

## Clackamas River Water Providers Offers Conservation Rebates

Clackamas River Water Providers reminds customers to use water wisely and take advantage of three rebate programs. The Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP) is a coalition of municipal water providers on the Clackamas River which serves over 300,000 people in Clackamas County. CRWP is committed to helping customers do whatever they can to use water more efficiently. To help in this quest, CRWP offers three water use rebates up to \$150 in value. These rebates are available on a first-come, first-served basis until the program funds are depleted. To learn more about the toilet rebate, rain sensor rebate, and/or a manual hose bib, please contact Christine at [christine@clackamasproviders.org](mailto:christine@clackamasproviders.org), call 503-723-3511 or visit online at <http://www.clackamasproviders.org>.

# This Month in West Linn

## October

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



**Neighbors Helping Neighbors**  
**Save a yard... help a neighbor**  
**October 16th, 2010**  
**8:30 a.m. – noon**  
**Hammerle Park**

- 2 - 1st Saturday Ivy Pulls, 9:00, Mary S. Young Park
- 4 - Book Club: To Kill a Mockingbird, 6:45, Library
- 4 - City Council Work Session, 6:00, City Hall
- 7 - Savanna Oaks NA Meeting, 7:00, City Hall
- 11 - City Council Meeting, 6:00, City Hall
- 12 - Robinwood NA Meeting, 7:00, Emman. Pres. Church
- 13 - Clackamas Cable Access Board, 5:30, WFTV Studio
- 13 - Willamette NA Meeting, 7:00, Pac West Bank
- 16 - Neighbors Helping Neighbors, 8:30, Hammerle Park
- 18 - Bolton NA meeting, 7:00, Bolton School
- 18 - City Council Work Session, 6:00, City Hall
- 19 - Sustainability Advisory Board, 6:00, City Hall
- 19 - Aquatic Center Committee Meeting, 6:00, ACC
- 19 - Hidden Springs NA Meeting, 7:00, City Hall
- 20 - Utility Advisory Board, 6:00, City Hall
- 20 - Aquatic Center Concept Public Meeting, 7:00, ACC
- 23 - West Linn Spooky Stroll, 3:00, Tanner Creek
- 23 - The Haunted Trail At Mary S Young Park, 7:00
- 25 - Public Safety Advisory Board, 6:00, City Hall
- 25 - Music in the Stacks: Ragtime with Greg Lief, 6:30, Library
- 25 - City Council Meeting, 6:00, City Hall
- 26 - Marylhurst NA Meeting, 7:00, ACC
- 27 - Library Board, 5:45, Library
- 27 - Transportation Advisory Board, 6:00, City Hall
- 31 - Willamette Haunt, 3:00, Historic Willamette

**This community clean-up event helps fellow neighbors over 70 years of age, or those who have limited mobility, who cannot physically or financially care for their own yards.**

**We need you! Can you give three hours on a Saturday morning to make a big impact in the life of a senior citizen in need? Make a difference in your community. Are you a homeowner in need of assistance? Apply for services now.**

**June's Neighbors Helping Neighbors event had 150 volunteers and transformed 16 homes! This October's event proves to be even greater! The Cities of West Linn and Lake Oswego are joining forces for an even larger NHH event.**

**For more information, to request services, or to volunteer, please contact the City of West Linn at 503-657-0331 or [www.westlinnoregon.gov/nhn](http://www.westlinnoregon.gov/nhn).**

**Please sign up by October 1st.**

## HALLOWEEN IN WEST LINN

### WEST LINN SPOOKY STROLL

**October 23, 2010**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Tanner Creek Park**

Costumed moms, dads, kids and on-leash pets are all invited to participate! Come visit with friends, new and old. This event is free and will feature music, crafts and goodies brought to us by donations from local parade sponsors. All net proceeds will be used to support the West Linn Holiday Food Drive. For more information, contact Heather at 503-723-7602 or [spicer\\_james@hotmail.com](mailto:spicer_james@hotmail.com).

### HAUNTED TRAIL

**October 23, 2010**

**7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.**

**Mary S. Young Park**

Please call the parks department with questions: 503-557-4700.

### WILLAMETTE HAUNT

**October 31, 2010**

**3:00-6:30pm**

**Historic Willamette District**

The Halloween Circus is coming to town! Join the merchants of Willamette in a Halloween celebration featuring: clowns; costumes; games; trick or treats with Willamette merchants. Please come in costume - safe trick or treats for everyone! Contact Sachi Wellness Center at 503-607-0018 for more information.