



WEST LINN UPDATE

First Quarter, 2015

Welcome to the first quarterly edition of the West Linn Update!

The West Linn City Council set a goal for 2015 to transition the city newsletter to a quarterly publication, with enhanced content and neighborhood-specific news. This change saves the city approximately \$10,000 per year. You'll receive this newsletter in your March, June, September and December city services bills. In between publication of the paper newsletter, be sure to check the city's website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and email newsletter accounts to stay informed about the latest city news.

State of the West Linn water system

This edition of the West Linn Update focuses on our water system - from source to tap. Take a look at these pictures to better understand where your water comes from and why the city's investment in our water system is one of our top priorities to ensure public health, public safety, and economic prosperity.



West Linn's water intake is on the Clackamas River. This state-of-the-art raw water intake withdraws water from the river and pumps it almost 2,000 ft. in distance and 300 ft. in elevation to the water treatment facility in Oregon City. The cities of West Linn and Oregon City have joint ownership of the South Fork Water Board.

Prior to 1915, both Oregon City and West Linn's drinking water came from the Willamette River. As a consequence of a serious outbreak of typhoid in 1913, the Oregon City Commission formed the "Pure Mountain Water League" and directed it to find a new source of drinking water. The League identified the South Fork of the Clackamas River. In March of that year the Oregon City Commission accepted West Linn's request for one-third share in the project. As a result, representatives from both Cities were selected and the South Fork Water Board was created. In 1996, the City of West Linn purchased the remaining ownership to obtain equal representation on the Board.

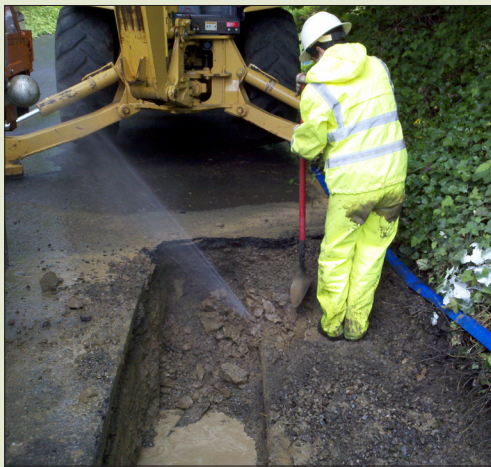


After treatment in Oregon City, West Linn's water flows through a pipe that hangs below the I-205 bridge. In 2007, a major break occurred in this water line. In cases of emergency on the I-205 bridge, West Linn relies on a redundant, independent water supply from Lake Oswego/Tigard (LOT). LOT's water is piped from the Clackamas River, under the Willamette River.

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West Linn's water is pumped from the I-205 transmission line to the main water storage facility, the Bolton Reservoir, located off of Skyline Drive, across from Wilderness Park. The Bolton Reservoir was built in 1915. At the February 16 meeting, the West Linn City Council authorized the construction of a new, seismically secure reservoir at the same location. Design work has started on the new reservoir, with construction scheduled to begin mid-2016.



West Linn currently has a backlog of \$4 million in deferred maintenance projects for the water system. To address this backlog, the citizen-led Utility Advisory Board has recommended 18 percent water rate increases for maintenance projects. However, West Linn's charter limits annual increases to five percent per year without a vote. This results in a work cycle that responds to pipe breaks and leaks, rather than preventing them before they occur.



West Linn currently has 11.25 miles of asbestos-coated, or AC, pipe. When AC pipes break, the entire line must be replaced. The goal is to remove all AC pipe from the West Linn system.



Lance Calvert is your City of West Linn Public Works Director and City Engineer. Contact Lance at

lcalvert@westlinnoregon.gov with your questions about West Linn's long-range water project planning.

Jim Whynot is your City of West Linn Water Supervisor. Contact Jim at

jwhynt@westlinnoregon.gov with your questions about West Linn's water system and water system maintenance and projects.



A reliable water system is critical for public health and public safety. Adequate water pressure, especially in the hot summer months, is important to ensure that water is available in a fire emergency. Recently, the construction of the Bland Pump Station increased redundancy for the whole water system and increased the capacity needed in the Rosemont pressure zone.



Lake Oswego/Tigard Water Project Contributions Keep Water Rates Low

The City of West Linn received \$5 million from the Lake Oswego/Tigard Water Partnership (LOT). This money will be spent on West Linn's Bolton Reservoir project, and an additional \$700,000 in LOT projects also directly benefit the West Linn water system. In addition, LOT is providing \$775,000 in street maintenance projects.

Richard Seals, the City of West Linn Chief Financial Officer, estimates that if the City had to borrow money to fund these water projects, rates would have to increase by an estimated 19 percent of the water portion (or \$3.88) of your City Services bill in order to pay back the borrowing. Below is an overview of Richard's calculations; email Richard at rseals@westlinnoregon.gov if you have any questions about these estimates.

WEST LINN WATER PROJECTS

Projected Savings to West Linn Water Rates:

- \$5.7 million = Amount of additional bonding needed if not for LOT's contribution
- 20 years = Term of financing
- 4% = Estimated annual interest rate
- \$419,000 = Estimated annual debt service payment for principal and interest over the term of the financing
- 9,000 = approximate number of utility accounts (businesses and residences)
- \$46.56 = Estimated annual amount saved on average per utility account
- **\$3.88 = Estimated monthly amount saved on average per utility account (or 18.97% of the 1/1/16 water portion of the average bills)**

LOT Construction in West Linn

If you have any questions or concerns about the LOT water line and water plant construction taking place in West Linn, please visit their project page at LOTigardWater.org. From this page, you can sign up for project updates, submit your questions, and learn more about this project.



Water Pipe Insurance Policies Are Not Affiliated with the City of West Linn

The City of West Linn wants to remind our customers that offers for water service line insurance are not associated with the city water system, nor does the city have any connection with any such insurance carrier.

On occasion, private companies send letters to residents offering a repair plan for the water service line extending from the resident's house to the water distribution pipeline, which usually runs in the street in front of the house.

These letters state that the line extending from the house to the water meter is the homeowner's responsibility. This means that if the home service line experiences a crack or break, the resident is responsible for all associated costs. While this is in fact true, some sales literature from such insurance company has confused some residents, making them feel that they are required to have an insurance policy that is separate from their homeowner's policy to cover any water utility line damage. If you have any questions about a water pipe insurance policy mailing you received, please contact Lori Hall at lhall@westlinnoregon.gov or 503-723-2525.



Updates from West Linn Neighborhood Associations:

Neighborhood Associations (NAs) are citizen engagement groups organized by the City of West Linn. Participating with your NA is one way to share your ideas and concerns with the city. Residents of an NA address issues affecting your neighborhood and community, such as land use items. There are 10 NAs in West Linn and they are different from Homeowners Associations (HOAs). For example, one NA may include multiple HOAs. Each quarter, we ask the NAs to share news and information in this newsletter. Here are the updates received from NAs:

Skyline Ridge NA

Upcoming Neighborhood Events:

- May 16, 2015 – Skyline Ridge Annual Pool Cleanup
- July 4, 2015 - Neighborhood Picnic
- Summer 2015 - Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Fun Facts: We're the smallest NA in West Linn with 137 houses. We have tennis courts, park, and neighborhood pool.

Sunset NA

- Next meeting is April 28 at Sunset Primary School library at 7:00 pm.
- The SNA picnic (tentative date) is June 28th @ Sunset Park - 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Come and get to know your neighbors!

Not sure which NA you live in? Visit WestLinnOregon.gov to find out! You can also sign up for an email newsletter about your NA meetings!

Savanna Oaks NA

Savanna Oaks NA is committed to improving the lives of our members and all West Linn citizens by enabling a free and open exchange of information and ideas. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Community Room of the TVF&R Fire Station at 1860 Willamette Falls Drive. Please join us and learn about issues and activities in your neighborhood.

We will soon begin planning for our annual Ice Cream Social to be held in July in Douglas Park. We can always use more volunteers. Please join us for an upcoming meeting and lend your expertise to this fun event. We need help with planning as well as day of the event support.

We are also working on finishing the acquisition of the last 6 acres of the White Oak Savanna Park on Tannler Drive. There are many upcoming events scheduled at the park including a fun Guinness Book of World Records attempt at the most people planting bulbs at one time on Saturday, April 18, 9-11 AM. We only need 851 people to unseat the current record holder, the United Kingdom. Go to www.NLWL.org for details.

Our monthly meetings provide attendees with the latest information on goings-on in West Linn and the Portland Metro area. We frequently have guest speakers who discuss a variety of interesting topics. We are also a clearinghouse for information related to ongoing development in our neighborhood. We hope that you will join us at our next meeting!

West Linn Neighbors Helping Neighbors Event is May 2

West Linn's annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors event is set for **Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to noon.**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a citywide event that is transforming the lives of people, young and old alike. Dedicated volunteers from all around the West Linn community come together on one Saturday morning to help fellow neighbors who are in need and cannot physically or financially care for their own yards.

Recipients are:

- Those over 70 years of age
- People with limited mobility
- Military spouses with partners currently serving overseas
- Neighbors with other critical financial or physical needs

If you are a homeowner or you know a homeowner who needs assistance, please visit WestLinnOregon.gov to fill out the NHN forms.

NHN is city-sponsored, but run by a group of dedicated volunteers, with Cody Towsey at the helm. Volunteers are needed for this annual event. Children with adults are welcome to participate. Sign up as a group, a family or an individual - or even come as an entire sports team. Just join in to help others in need and give back to this great community we all call home. To volunteer, fill out the volunteer form at WestLinnOregon.gov.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Cody Towsey at WestLinnNHN@live.com.

If you would like to receive more information, sign up for NHN-related emails from the City of West Linn using this link: <http://eepurl.com/IUy79>

