

SERVING THE  
WEST SLOPE  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
SINCE 1922

### Board Meetings

- Board of Commissioners Virtual Meeting; 5 PM Wednesday, May 18 including the Budget Committee Meeting
- Board of Commissioners Virtual Meeting; 5 PM, Wednesday, June 15 including a Rate Hearing and a Budget Hearing
- Board of Commissioners Virtual Meeting; 5 PM, **Wednesday, July 13 Proposed Special Day for this month only!**

### What's Happening in the District?

**April 24 - May 7 is National Drinking Water Weeks !!**

Check our website for more info !!

The office is fully open now. District Board meetings will still be held virtually into 2022. Thank you for your patience !!

*Do you need any assistance with the District's On-Line Bill Pay service? Please contact us at customer. Service@wswd.org*

### Contact Us !

3105 SW 89th Ave.  
(503) 292-2777

On the web at:  
www.wswd.org

Email: customer.  
service@wswd.org



Volume 3 Issue 2

April to June 2022

## West Slope Turns 100 Years Old in 2022 !!

If you see our District vehicles, you may have noticed under the name "West Slope Water District" is the phrase "Since 1922". It's true! In 1922, the Oregon Legislature made the formation of special districts for water service legal, and West Slope Water District was born. Local dairy farmers in this area and other residents needed water for their farms and homes ... water to drink that was safe and in sufficient in quantity to provide reliable fire protection. For 100 years, the District has been serving water supplied by the City of Portland. It was quite a vision to bring Bull Run water **by gravity** the Cascade foothills into Portland in the late 1890s and quite a vision by early area residents to bring that water into West Slope just a few decades later. And we all enjoy the benefit of those

visions and the dedicated people who turned the vision into a reality.



Today, our visions build upon those from over 100 years ago as we think about the next 100 years and what West Slope Water District will look like at that time. 100 years ago, there was no thought about pathogens, lead in water, and earthquakes. But today, along with the City of Portland, we are seeing the construction of the Bull Run Water Treat-

ment Plant, a corrosion control treatment facility operational in late April to add alkalinity and raise the pH of the water to better protect your household plumbing from internal corrosion (see Page 2 for more info), and replacing aging infrastructure in the District with seismically resilient water mains and reservoirs for the sustainability of the District. These visions & more are what is needed for the next 100 years. This summer, we are planning to have an outdoor celebration to honor the visions from 100 years ago, the water system we have today, and the visions for the next 100 years. The July newsletter will have more details about the celebration. Until then, check your old albums & attics for old West Slope photos to share & display with us in the park!

## West Slope Bids Farewell to Our Finance & Customer Service Manager



Lucy Dawes, the District's Finance and Customer Service Manager since 2015, will be retiring as of June 30, 2022. Ms. Dawes first came to West Slope to help the District on a limited duration basis but soon realized how enjoyable it is working with District customers and decided to stay a little longer! In the seven years she has been with the District, she has developed detailed annual budgets, instituted long range financial forecasts and helped bring financial stability and sustainability to the District just to name a few of her many accomplishments. Please join District staff and elected officials in wishing Lucy much joy and happiness in retirement. In the next issue, we will introduce you to the new Finance & Customer Service Manager!

## Spring is Here! Time to Do Some Irrigation and Sprinkler System Maintenance!

Well, at least it is SUPPOSED to be here if it will stop snowing in April! But before you bring your irrigation system out of hibernation to work all summer, follow these tips in the Spring to keep your system in prime condition well into the late Summer:



- **Close all manual drains.** Drain valves may have been left partially open when the sprinkler system was drained and winterized last Fall.
- **Slowly open the main valve,** allowing the piping between the valve and the cross connection (backflow) prevention assembly to fill with water (see photo below).
- **Pressurize the mainline from the backflow prevention assembly to the control valves.** Have one of the control valves open while this is done so air trapped in the irrigation piping can escape through the sprinkler heads as the pipes fill with water.
- **Have the backflow prevention device tested by a state-certified tester.** Contact West Slope Water District for specific information on rules and regulations regarding backflow prevention devices – on our website, we have a link to the list of State

certified testers who work in Washington County: [http://www.wswd.org/for\\_customers/backflow/certified\\_backflow\\_testers.php](http://www.wswd.org/for_customers/backflow/certified_backflow_testers.php)

- **Run the entire sprinkler system, one zone at a time.** As this is being done:

1. Check for signs of leakage, especially damage to sprinkler heads or piping which could have occurred over the winter. Repair and replace as needed.
2. Check for accurate spray patterns. Adjust the sprinkler heads so they water your landscape and not sidewalks or pavement.
3. Make sure spray patterns are not blocked by plants or other materials.
4. Clean clogged nozzles and sprinkler heads.

- **Install a rain sensor.** Rain sensors are designed to shut off sprinkler systems when rainfall reaches a preset amount, usually 1/4 inch. Once the moisture level subsides, the sensor re-enables the sprinkler system, resuming the previous watering schedule. Rain sensors should be mounted in an unobstructed area exposed to open sky - minimizing the potential for fallen leaves or other debris from blocking the sensor.



## Do You Have Tropical Fish or Have a Home Brewery?

If so, you should know the City of Portland is making slight changes in water chemistry to make our water less corrosive to lead and other metals in home plumbing. Beginning in April, the City will be increasing the alkalinity of the water from 5 parts per million (ppm) to 25 ppm and by late June raising the pH from 8.3 to 8.6. To learn more, go to

[www.portland.gov/water/bullruntreatment/corrosion-control/about](http://www.portland.gov/water/bullruntreatment/corrosion-control/about)