

## **SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER...**

Greetings from your 2017 OHWA Board of Directors. It has been a long, wet, and cold winter and we are all eagerly awaiting signs of spring. While we are contemplating emerging from hibernation, now is a good time to catch you up on changes coming to OHWA for 2017.

## **BACKFLOW TESTING CHANGES**

We have contracted with Tom Hempel testing to perform back-flow testing for each service on our system in 2017. This means that members will no longer be responsible for arranging individual testing and submitting test reports. Testing will occur in the summer months and be completed by our Sept 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. Each member will be assessed a one-time charge of \$24 on their June bill for this required service. If a backflow device fails a test or needs repairs, this will be communicated to the member and the required repairs and additional re-testing fee will be the responsibility of the affected member. A copy of the test report will be provided to each individual as well as to the organization to keep us in compliance with rules stipulated by the Oregon Health Authority. **Please make sure to cancel any individual arrangements on a recurring basis you may already have in place for testing.**

## **LEAK DETECTION**

It is always a good idea to be on alert for possible leaks in the system that could be driving up the cost of your water bill and wasting a costly and precious resource. Pay attention to your monthly usage and make sure it does not seem out of line with your water consumption. Keep an ear out for pumps running when there is no demand for water and check any underground irrigation or sprinkler systems when you turn them on again. It is not unusual for pipes or valves to break or loosen a cold winter. Also having an isolation valve will allow you to make appropriate repairs without turning off water to the entire home or property. If you do discover a leak that has resulted in a larger than expected water bill, requests for adjustment to the bill can be addressed in writing to the OHWA Board.

## **NEED FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER**

The OHWA is still short one board member. The association functioned all through 2016 with only four board members and still need to fill the "Member at Large" vacancy. A full board would create a more effective governing body and would ensure a quorum of three board members at every meeting. The board typically meets once a month, on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7 pm for approximately 2 hours. No experience is necessary and there is a gentle learning curve. Please let Mary Tucker, OHWA Office Manager, know if you would be willing to consider a two year commitment. All interested parties are welcome to sit in on a monthly board meeting prior to making a final decision as well.

## **COMING CHANGES FOR 2017**

More details will be forthcoming, but it is our hope to update our Capital Improvement Plan in 2017 to better guide our decision-making for the entire OHWA system. We also hope to get a website up and running and perhaps create an opportunity for on-line debit payments for your monthly bill. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your water service or the OHWA, please contact Mary Tucker at 503-569-9731.