

FROM THE BOARD

Greetings from the Orchard Heights Water Association Board. It is so hard to believe that it is already June and we are looking forward to graduations, the end of the school year, and heading into summer.

As we head into summer, please keep in mind that the long-range forecast is for a warm and dry summer which means we will all soon need to rely on smart watering choices for our yards and gardens. If you have a sprinkler system for your yard, please do a thorough inspection of all the valves and sprinkler heads and drip tubing and make appropriate repairs to avoid unnecessary water usage. Consider watering in the cool, morning hours and consult recommended watering guides to only water as much as is needed for various plants. Also, consider letting your grass go dormant in the summer as another way to conserve water.

The ongoing required annual back-flow testing will be performed by OHWA and you will be billed for this on your July billing cycle. If the device fails when tested, you will be notified and given guidance on the necessary repairs or replacement.

The OHWA Board has been meeting monthly and we continue to gather data and estimates on what will be required to make some major upgrades to our system. We are pursuing the option of drilling a new well for the system and are actively looking at hiring an engineering consultant to help guide this process along with the Water Resource Experts we have been consulting with the past two years. As this is a large capital improvement project that could be quite costly, options for funding include possible grant funds, loans, as well as continuing accrual of capital improvement dollars from the membership of the Association. We will keep you all apprised as we get closer to moving forward with this ambitious project.

Water shares continue to be available for purchase at \$5,000 a share to connect to our system. If you know of anyone who is interested have them contact Mary Tucker, OHWA office manager at officemanager@ohwassn.com or by calling 503-569-9731.

2024 ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Annual Water Quality Report for 2024 will be sent out to members at the end of June. It is a required report under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act that lets you know details about the water that comes from the Orchard Heights Water Association. Please take note of the water conservation tips outlined in the report. We can all do our part to help maintain an adequate supply of water for our members.

The Oregon Health Authority is requiring water systems to perform a lead and copper survey on their infrastructure. As our meter reader makes his rounds over the next few months, you may notice him spending more time at the meter and possibly digging out some boxes as he attempts to determine the type of piping coming in and out of the meter.