



Waterlines

FEBRUARY 2019

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF MEDFORD WATER COMMISSION

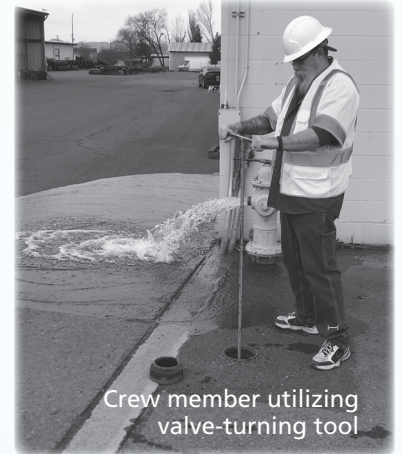
NEW MAINTENANCE PROGRAM TO SAFEGUARD WATER QUALITY

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

In March, the Commission will begin a proactive valve maintenance program designed to enhance long term water quality, prevent main breaks and water disruptions, and improve the operability of our distribution system. Valves are used to isolate sections of mains for repairs or new construction, reducing the number of customers affected when the main must be shut down.

The program will exercise, or turn, valves within our distribution system to ensure their functionality, and may cause minerals which have built up in the system to dislodge and be released into the water. While every attempt is made by our crews to flush these minerals out of the system at the time of the maintenance activity, some customers may experience slight discoloration of the water at the tap.

This discoloration is harmless, but we recommend that customers experiencing discolored water flush out their water lines by opening all the taps in the house for a few minutes until the water runs clear. If this does not resolve the issue or you have other water quality concerns, please call us at (541) 774-2450.



Crew member utilizing valve-turning tool



Staff clothing drive
September 2018

HOW WILL YOU LEAVE YOUR MARK?

With 2019 in full swing, it's time to focus on resolutions and goals for the new year. Beyond the common intentions to quit smoking or join the gym, you might also reflect on the needs of your community.

Each and every one of us have an opportunity to leave our mark on our community. Whether it is a donation of time, money, or personal items, giving back brings people together, forming stronger connections and improving the lives of those around us.

Making volunteering a family activity is also an excellent lesson for children, teaching them life-long values and awareness of social issues.

The Commission has made it a point to make a positive impact not just by providing drinking water of the highest-possible quality and protecting our valuable water sources, but by taking time to give back to the less fortunate.

In the last year we held a clothing drive and were able to donate over 30 bags of

clothing to Medford Gospel Mission. That's more than 300 outfits to help those in need!

During the holiday season, our staff adopted two local families through Maslow Project, purchasing presents for them and putting heartwarming smiles on their faces during a difficult time.

For help more directly related to water service, we provide annual grants to several local non-profit agencies for water bill payment assistance to qualifying low-income households.

If you would like more info about water bill payment assistance, please call us at (541) 774-2430 or contact The Salvation Army, ACCESS, or St. Vincent de Paul directly.

What will you do in 2019 to leave your positive mark?

We're here for you:

(541) 774-2430
customerservice@medfordwater.org

www.medfordwater.org

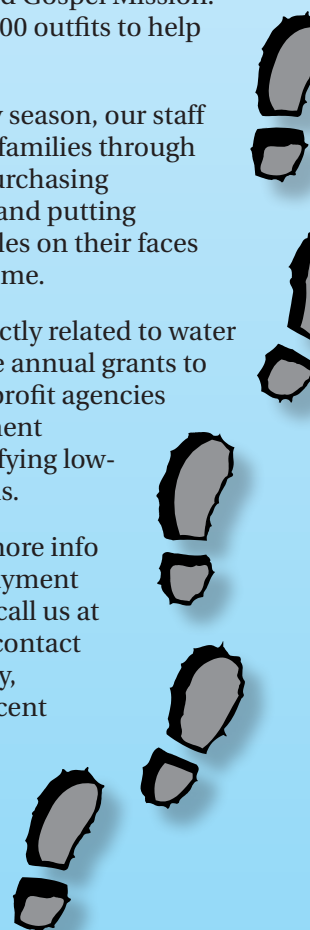
200 South Ivy Street, Room 177
Medford, OR 97501

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday

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A LASTING LEGACY

The passing of longtime commissioner Leigh Johnson in November of 2018 left a lasting legacy that is not easily matched.



Leigh Johnson

Through his work on the Board of Water Commissioners, Leigh served Medford Water Commission since 1996, but his dedicated service to the community began much earlier.

As an Ashland business owner, he joined the police reserves and the Oregon National Guard, before serving in the Oregon House of Representatives. After working as Harry & David's vice president of government relations and spearheading legislation that ultimately allowed the company to go public, he went on to form his own consulting firm and work for People's Bank.

Leigh was a member of more than 50 other boards and commissions, including ACCESS, Jackson County Fair, Boy Scouts, and Chamber of Medford/Jackson County, where he was instrumental in getting the popular "Red, White, and Boom" Fourth of July celebration organized.

This breadth of experience allowed him to advocate and support the Rogue Valley community in immeasurable ways, and his influence will be missed by our organization and private citizens as well. City of Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler has proclaimed December 5th as Leigh Johnson Day.

PLANNING FOR PEACE OF MIND

Following decades of research, the scientific community pinpointed that a large earthquake is most likely to occur, and is in fact overdue, in the Pacific Northwest.

You may need to survive on your own after such an emergency. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours, or it might take several days.

This means having your own food and other supplies in significant quantities to last at least three days. When it comes to water, experts recommend that each person in the family have a water supply equal to one gallon per day for **14 days**, due to the higher earthquake risk in our region and the possibility that water systems and infrastructure may be severely damaged. Your household needs may be even greater; be sure to think of each family member's specific requirements (including pets).

Take time with your family to create a plan and make an emergency kit. Give yourself peace of mind knowing that you have the resources that your family needs. Medford Water Commission has created a checklist to help you get ready and be prepared if disaster strikes. Find the checklist on our website, or simply scan this QR code with your phone:



For more ideas, like us on Facebook and see what our staff is doing to get prepared.



SHOW US HOW YOU PREP!

Inspire and help others by sharing your photos with us; take a pic of your entire kit, your water supply, or your family practicing your plan. Challenge others to do the same!

- 1** Go to our Facebook or Twitter page and post your photo:
facebook.com/MedfordWater
twitter.com/MedfordWater
- 2** Or tag us in your posts:
[@MedfordWater](https://twitter.com/MedfordWater)

Medford Water Commission

Established in 1922 and governed by the Board of Water Commissioners.

Commissioners

Jason Anderson • John Dailey
 Rick Whitlock • Greg Jones • Daniel Bunn

General Manager

Brad Taylor

Serving Partner Cities:

Medford, Central Point, Eagle Point, Jacksonville, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland*

Also serving:

White City area and the following water districts: Elk City and Charlotte Ann

*Emergency inertie only

