



ORO LOMA NEWS

San Lorenzo, CA

(510) 276-4700

www.oroloma.org

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Inside

- Oro Loma Earth Day 2008 Poster Contest
- E-Waste Event Is a Huge Success
- Recycling Schedules
- Worm Composting
- President's Message
- Know Your Utilities
- Spotlight on Excellence: Ronnie McClure
- Safe Disposal of Medications

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Powerful New Computer Program Streamlines Plant Operations

Keeping a wastewater treatment plant such as Oro Loma in optimal working condition is quite an undertaking. Performing all the necessary maintenance and operations tasks, while at the same time keeping track of all the plant's assets and costs, is an even more daunting task.

Oro Loma has always been committed to operating in the most time- and cost-efficient manner possible, and that commitment is reflected in the District's single-family sewer rate, which is the lowest in Alameda County. Now, the District has a new computer program to coordinate both on-going operations and plan for future needs. This powerful tool allows Oro Loma to generate paperless work orders, thus reducing the need to use paper. The program is called Mainsaver and it has been used with great reviews in wastewater treatment plants across the country, including the City of Chicago.

Since Mainsaver is intended for use in many different working environments, it had to be configured to Oro Loma's particular needs and security requirements. Spearheading this project was the SLAM team of Scott von der Lieth (S), Lacey Jiles (L), Angelino Santos (A), and Matt Camisa (M). The team has been working since 2007 to set up the system and transfer data from an older, more limited computer program.

The Mainsaver software is able to generate and check the status of work orders, while at the same time tracking time and materials used. The data generated provides statistical analysis

for budgeting purposes and personnel needs. The company that manufactures Mainsaver has been providing software for municipal districts



Mainsaver tracks jobs like this messy one.

for over 25 years, and all future upgrades are included in the cost of the software.

The SLAM team, coordinated by Lacey Jiles, continues to train operations and maintenance personnel in Mainsaver's use.

Despite the long hours Scott, Lacey, Angelino, and Matt put in to make the Mainsaver project possible, Oro Loma did not need to hire temporary workers to take over the team's usual tasks. These were all absorbed by other staff members, who stepped in to take on additional work so the SLAM team could do their job of bringing the best computerized maintenance management system to Oro Loma.



*The SLAM team l to r:
Scott von der Lieth,
Lacey Jiles, Angelino
Santos, Matt Camisa*

Oro Loma Earth Day 2008 Poster Contest



The posters are in and they look great!

Last year over 2,700 entries were received and a total of \$15,400 was awarded to students and their schools. This year there were 3,523 entries, and since the cash prize awards have been increased by over 40%, the total of cash prizes awarded will be even more.

On Earth Day, April 22, the winners in this year's contest will be announced, but exactly what each contestant won won't be revealed until the awards ceremony, which will be held on May 27, 2008 at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro.

Be sure to check the District's website at www.oroloma.org on April 22 for all the winners, and again on May 27 to find out what they won. In addition to the cash prize winners, the Oro Loma website will list the names of the 15 contestants in each grade group to win a Certificate of Merit. These honorary certificates do not carry any cash prizes, but they recognize the efforts of some of our most talented students.

Information on the Oro Loma/Waste Management Earth Day 2009 Poster contest will be printed in upcoming newsletters.



Mule trains must take recycling materials out of Yosemite's High Sierra Camps. Oro Loma customers just need to put their recycling carts at the curb every other week. The 2008 recycling schedules are posted on www.oroloma.org.

E-Waste Event Is a Huge Success

On Saturday, February 9, 2008, 106,991 pounds of obsolete and unwanted electronic equipment were diverted from landfills at a free and convenient e-waste event sponsored by Oro Loma Sanitary District. The event was held in the Arroyo High School parking lot, and would not have been possible without the help and approval of the San Lorenzo Unified School District. Over 1,200 cars brought in the unwanted equipment.

Since February 8, 2006, it has been illegal in California to dispose of electronic waste in the trash. In addition to providing a safe and environmentally-responsible way of disposing of e-waste, the event generated \$6,644.94 in revenue for the District. ASL Recycling separated and removed the collected material for recycling at their facility in San Jose.

The February e-waste event was such a success that the District is planning another one in September. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Some of the computers, laptops, printers, cables, cords, DVD players, power supplies, disk drives, tape drives, computer monitors, keyboards, TV sets, VCRs, microwaves, stereo equipment, cell phones and zip drives collected at the free e-waste event.



Worm Composting

Spring is here and with it comes a whole list of gardening tasks. Most of us who love gardening look forward to this time of year, but even the most stalwart have to admit it would be nice to get some help.

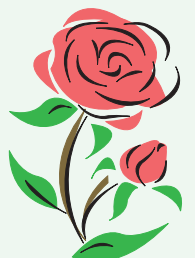
How about a couple thousand helpers?

Red wiggler worms may be small, but they do a great job composting kitchen food waste to produce one of the richest soil improvements around. And they hardly ever complain. Use the composted worm castings in your garden or mixed into potting soil for indoor plants.

Alameda County residents can get a three-tiered stacked Wriggly Wranch Worm Bin for only \$29 by going to www.stopwaste.org. The worm bin takes up little room and doesn't smell, so even apartment dwellers can enjoy this fun way of turning fruit and vegetable scraps into useful compost.



While at the StopWaste website, be sure to watch the short tutorial on worm composting and check out all the other garden-related material that is free or low cost to Alameda County residents.



P

resident's Message

Michael "Mike" C. Cameron has been the General Manager of Oro Loma Sanitary District for nearly 15 years. Last November, he announced his intention to retire on May 3, 2008, and is currently working closely with the Oro Loma Board in a search for his replacement.

Unlike many managers of sanitary districts, Mike didn't come up through the ranks. He actually started his career as a Walnut Creek police officer, rose to the rank of sergeant and eventually accepted "an offer he couldn't refuse" in the financial services industry. During his ten years in the private sector, he held a number of senior executive positions.

Mike has long been an advocate of giving customers and taxpayers premium service at a reasonable cost. He believes that the key to achieving this goal is to manage a government agency more like a business than a bureaucracy.

The Oro Loma Board of Directors has similar beliefs, and it was perhaps this merging of ideas that prompted the Board to hire Mike as the General Manager in August 1993. Although he had no experience in the industry, Mike was a licensed general contractor and had a Masters degree in Public Administration. The Board

concluded that Mike's views on government, combined with his education and broad management experience, would likely move the District into very productive directions. And this has certainly proven to be the case.

Initially, Mike significantly reduced the size of the District's staff, but maintained competitive wages and benefits for employees. These actions have saved over one million dollars per year for 15 years. Mike also formed a partnership with the Board and the staff to move forward as a team. This created a number of synergies and a high level of productivity at a very low cost.

Over the years, the District has won numerous industry and financial awards, such as CWEA Plant of the Year, CSRMA Safety Program of the Year, Excellence in Financial Reporting, etc. During Mike's tenure, the District spent \$85 million in capital improvements, including major pipeline replacements and a total modernization of the District's wastewater treatment plant. In spite of these expenses, the District has consistently maintained the lowest sewer service charges in Alameda County, and some of the lowest rates in the entire state

of California. Moreover, the District's capital reserves are double what they were when Mike came to the District, and the costs of employee retirement benefits are fully funded well into the future.

Mike is quick to point out that all of this would not have been possible without a dedicated and supportive Board of Directors and staff. The Board sets the policy, and the Oro Loma staff works diligently to achieve those goals. In doing so, the staff has a remarkable record of high productivity, low use of sick leave, and an even more remarkable safety record.

Mike is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, and has no plans to leave the area after he retires. He has a number of hobbies and outside interests that should keep him busy when he is not traveling with his wife or visiting his daughter at her college.

The Oro Loma Board of Directors and staff wish to thank Mike for displaying such high standards of honor and integrity, sensitivity and responsiveness over the last 15 years, and for providing such sound leadership to the District. We also appreciate and will miss Mike's sense of humor, and we extend our best wishes to him for a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement.

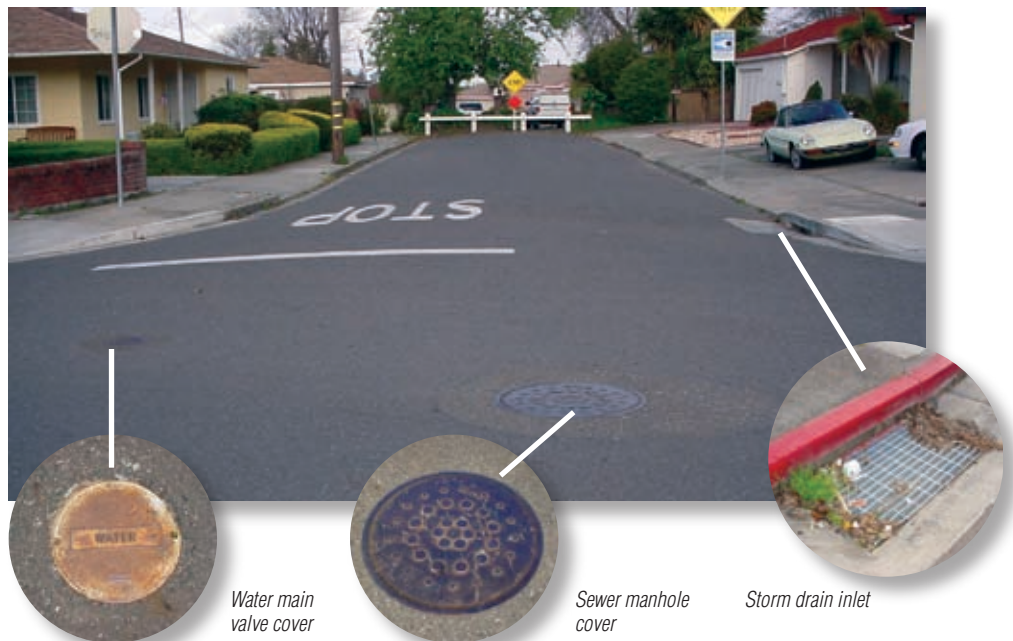


Know Your Utilities

Water is running down your street—but where is it coming from? Sometimes it's hard to tell. If you're not sure, call Oro Loma at (510) 276-4700. The District has a crew on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to handle emergencies. If there is a sewer problem, the sooner the District is notified, the sooner repairs can begin.

But the problem may have nothing to do with the sewer main. Maybe the water is coming from a fire hydrant, water main valve (EBMUD 866-403-2683), or a clogged storm drain (Alameda County Flood Control 510-670-5480). Here are photos of common fixtures you'll find in the street.

Remember—If you think there might be a sewer problem, call Oro Loma!





Oro Loma Sanitary District
2655 Grant Avenue
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**Powerful New
Computer Program
Streamlines
Plant
Operations**

Spotlight on Excellence: Ronnie McClure

Life has been exciting for Ronnie McClure lately. Just last year, he got married. Shortly after that, he and his wife, Hanna, found out they were expecting a baby boy. (Baby Ellis is due to make his debut on May 16.) Then, on February 11, 2008, Ronnie started work at Oro Loma.



Now, compared with life-changing events like getting married and having a baby, starting a new job might not seem like much, but Ronnie thinks it's pretty important. Although he holds a federal airframe and power plant license that allows him to work on aircraft, and although he has worked as a United Airlines mechanic, Ronnie finds he most enjoys working in the area of wastewater treatment. He already holds a WWTP Operator II license, and before coming to Oro Loma, Ronnie worked at the Union Sanitary District as a Plant Operator III Trainee for nine months. At Oro Loma, Ronnie is working as an Operator I and is learning how the plant works. Right now, he is running the belt press, an operation that produces valuable biosolids from the sludge left over from the wastewater treatment process.

Ronnie was born and spent his early years outside the US. This experience showed him how important clean, safe water is, and how vital wastewater treatment is in the process of protecting public health and the environment. Ronnie is excited about the prospect of learning more about that process and about putting his mechanical training to use in plant maintenance. He is already studying for his WWPT Operator III license, and he says he intends to stay with Oro Loma until he retires.

Ronnie and his wife Hanna live in San Leandro.

Safe Disposal of Medications



Trace amounts of antibiotics, anti-depressants, birth control pills, seizure medication, cancer treatments, pain killers, tranquilizers and cholesterol-lowering compounds have been detected in water in all parts of the world. The long-term effect of these chemicals is unknown. Some scientists believe pharmaceuticals do not pose problems to humans, since they occur at low concentrations in water. Others advise that since the long-term effects are unknown, we should exercise caution. They are concerned that many of these drugs have the potential of interfering with hormone production, or may result in disease-causing bacteria becoming drug-resistant.

Pharmaceutical industries, hospitals and other medical facilities are obvious sources, but households also contribute a significant share. The EPA warns that sewage treatment systems are not specifically engineered to remove pharmaceuticals, and these drugs can pass intact into waterways, lakes and even aquifers when people dispose of unused medicines by flushing them down the toilet. Further, discarded pharmaceuticals often end up at dumps and landfills, posing a threat to underlying groundwater. Veterinary drugs also play a role. Pets are now treated for a wide range of ailments—sometimes with the same drugs as humans.

You can help keep these potentially dangerous chemicals out of our water by safely disposing of unwanted medicines at one of three Alameda County household hazardous waste sites. Directions to these sites—in Oakland, Hayward, and Livermore—and hours of operation are available at www.stopwaste.org, or by calling (800) 606-6606. Old, expired, or unneeded prescription and non-prescription medications are accepted. Controlled substances are not accepted. For information on how to dispose of controlled substances, email HHW@acgov.org.

Pills may be poured into a zip-locked plastic bag or left in their original container. Be sure to remove your name and identifying information from all medicine labels. Please bring proof of Alameda County residency when you visit the household hazardous waste sites.

