

# With Grateful Hearts

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WRITTEN BY THE REVIEW

Lake Oswegans give thanks for the blessings of the season



Harmony Yount (from right), Grace Aird, Tillie Siger and the rest of their kindergarten class at Hallinan Elementary School perform Go My Son, a Native American song, during Thanksgiving festivities this week. For more holiday celebrations, see the stories on Pages A5 and A17.

We count family and friends among our most precious gifts, delighting in the simple pleasures of laughter and love, of quiet acts of kindness, of smiles and handshakes and words happily shared.

We are in awe of the bounty and beauty of the seasons. And we are overcome with the pure joy of a walk in the woods, an early morning horse ride, a chance to row on the river or paddle on the lake.

We are, all of us, Lake Oswegans. And as we gather in the spirit of Thanksgiving this week, our hearts are filled with gratitude for all of the blessings of lives lived in this beautiful and wondrous place:

Every morning, when I first open my eyes and discover the gift of another new day, I'm grateful for my health, clarity and optimism to experience that moment filled with unknown possibility. And that makes me feel grateful to get another chance to be an even better version of me — to make a difference, share a smile, offer support or comfort, kiss my darling daughter, hug my puppy, take a deep breath of our precious, clean, Lake Oswego air, savor the sweet sound of birdsong or chattering squirrels over that first fragrant cup of coffee, and then head into the challenges of the day, hopeful I'll treat others with respect, patience and empathy, mindful I only have today. There is no tomorrow; when the last stroke of midnight sounds, it will always become today.

— Olive Gallagher is a Lake Oswego resident and a real estate Broker with Keller Williams Realty Professionals

I am thankful for the blessings of good health, a loving family and dear friends and co-workers who keep me laughing. I am also grateful that Lake Oswego is our home. People care deeply about the future of the town, and it is truly an honor serving the community.

— Scot Siegel is the Lake Oswego planning and building director

In addition to loved ones, health, job, etc., I am thankful for the people who spend their days making sure that we have clean water when we need it and for our laws that protect it. Over 1 billion people on our planet don't have access to clean water. Our water maintenance, operations and treatment employees make sure it's delivered to our homes and businesses 24/7.

— Jane Heisler is the recently retired communications director for the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership

I'm thankful for my family who keep me laughing, my friends who support me, my health which allows me to keep doing the things I love (running and hiking), and for my job and the Lake Oswego Schools Foundation's supporters who inspire me daily with their stories of teachers and generous donations.

— Sara Patinkin is the executive director of the Lake Oswego Schools Foundation

I'm thankful for all our readers and advertisers who allow us the privilege of being their best source for local news. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to help inspire, engage and inform our communities. I'm also thankful for my co-workers, who are committed to working

long hours in our efforts to write more stories, take more photos and sell more advertising. Finally and most importantly, I'm thankful for my family. They constantly remind me that it is the little things in life that we have to cherish and appreciate.

— J. Brian Monihan is publisher of the Lake Oswego Review

There are so many things I am thankful for. A few that come to mind — a wonderful and supportive wife, a recent college-graduate daughter with a great job, a rising college-graduate daughter with a great job offer, healthy and vibrant parents and in-laws, fabulous family and friends, a wonderful community to be a part of and live in, a great superintendent and smooth transition, a balanced school budget after six hard years of reductions, and being part of a community that supports education. And, our 13 1/2-year-old Bernese mountain dog, Barney, who continues to miraculously live another day.

— John Wendland is a Lake Oswego School Board member

When my children were babies, I'd take them to the window every morning and whisper, "It's another beautiful day that God has made." Expressing gratitude remains the way I start and end every day — thankful for the people we love who shine the light of joy and gratitude, and thankful for the beauty of four seasons that give us a kaleidoscope with transcendent moments of awe.

— Karen Dill Bowerman is a Lake Oswego city councilor

I'm grateful for my family, my friends and my health. I'm also grateful for where I live — it's a beautiful and wondrous place. I so appreciate seeing a rainbow or a hummingbird drinking nectar, or catching that first glimpse of Mount Hood when I'm cruising north on I-5. And then there's the full-bodied joy my dog shows when he greets me at the door or when my husband smiles or laughs at one of my jokes. These simple pleasures keep me grounded and happy.

— Stephanie Watson is a Lake Oswego freelance writer and editor

In my professional life, I'm thankful for the students who so openly share their joy and creativity with us, the fact that I get to work with people that make me laugh every single day, and the gift of having a job that challenges and inspires me. Personally, I am thankful for watching Blazer games with my mom, overhearing my boys saying kind things to each other, and seeing the sun rise over beautiful Portland, Ore., in the mornings. We take so many things for granted, and it is honestly all the small things that add up to a happy and fulfilling life!

— Sara Deboy is the principal of Hallinan Elementary School

I'm thankful for the tremendous opportunity to serve our community this year. I'm grateful for all I've learned, the chance to participate more fully in community issues, and for the wonderful

friendships that have resulted from council work. Most importantly, I'm so thankful for my loving husband, children, extended family and friends who have cheered me on, cheered me up and filled my life with love and laughter.

— Lauren Hughes is a Lake Oswego city councilor

I read a news story the other day that said only 6 percent of people grow up to do the job they dreamed about as a child. And so on this Thanksgiving, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to live my dream and share my love of community journalism with the people of Lake Oswego. I have met so many wonderful and welcoming people who live and work and play in a town that I have already come to love, and I thank all of them for sharing this place with me. I am also thankful for my three children, my two grandchildren and a network of good and loving friends who remind me every day that, in the end, it is the connections we make and the relationships we nurture that truly define who we are.

— Gary M. Stein is editor of The Lake Oswego Review

On behalf of the Lake Oswego Board of Education, we are thankful for an outstanding national search process that brought us Dr. Heather Beck. She continues to show that she is the right person at the right time for our Lake Oswego schools. All our children have a bright educational future ahead of them.

— Liz Hartman is the Lake Oswego School Board chairwoman

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because it is time to pause and remind myself of life's most precious gifts. The day brings laughter, comfort, memories and above all family, held together in name and love. I welcome the pure energy Thanksgiving brings with good cheer, goofy jokes, ugly sweaters, football and lots of gab. It is a time to give thanks for the simple pleasures and to be eternally grateful for all the blessings life puts on our plate. Especially the turkey!

— Lita Grigg is the founder of Save Our Village

I am thankful for oxygen. When I breathe it in, I'm reminded that I'm alive. When days get tough, filling my lungs with oxygen brings relaxation and peace. I'm thankful for the long, beautiful summer we had this year in the Northwest, which allowed for several weekends of outdoor adventures. The weekends spent on a river kayaking, the random day hikes in the Gorge and the numerous camping trips. Oxygen surrounds you on those types of expeditions, and reminds me of how fortunate and thankful I am to be alive.

— Angila Petris is vice president and branch manager of Pacific West Bank

I am thankful for having each day to be around these beautiful horses. For the crisp morning rides, only hearing the breathing of the horse underneath me and the clip clop of his hoofs.

Thankful for the wonderful people that surround me in Lake Oswego and share my passion. Most of all, I am thankful for my family and our health this year.

— Katie Purdy is the manager and trainer at Lake Oswego Hunt

I am thankful for my wonderful family and friends and for having all three of my lovely daughters home for the holidays. I am also grateful to live in this beautiful town and see the wonderful accomplishments of our youngest citizens each day.

— Patti Zebrowski is a Lake Oswego School Board member

Top of the list of things for which I am thankful are my family and friends. I am thankful for getting to do interesting work and feel truly honored to write the fun, intriguing and simply amazing stories of the folks in our community. I am thankful for our readers, and for the friendships that have developed over the years. Here's wishing you all a nice big turkey dinner and an extra slice of pumpkin pie, eaten with your favorite people.

— Barb Randall is the community editor of The Lake Oswego Review

I'm grateful for the great community in which I get to work. Our students, teachers, support staff and parents are amazing people to be around each day. My staff and I are all grateful for the small victories throughout each week, like when students light up as a new concept becomes familiar and usable for them, when teachers and aides see kids doing their very best work or they become aware of the awesome support given students by a family member, when recess duties see competition balanced by good sportsmanship, and when parents see all of the above. I am aware of the tremendous efforts of River Grove's staff to meet the needs of our students, as well as the needs of their team members and of the school and the district. Our students' parents work very hard to support their kids and our school. It's humbling to be around that amount of positive energy, with the extraordinary efforts that are required to keep it going every day. I'm thankful that I get to see that and feel that every single day.

— Dan Sterling is the principal of River Grove Elementary School

I am thankful we live in this great country, with its abundance of life's essential goods and its freedom to pursue our spiritual needs in a whole host of ways. On a more local level, I am thankful for the opportunity to live in such a wonderful community. Most importantly, I am thankful for my fantastic family, without whom life would be very drab.

— Kent Studebaker is the mayor of Lake Oswego

As we reflect back on our nearly 25 years in the antiques business in Lake Oswego, we are thankful for our great neighbors, friends, customers and consignors. Your friendship, trust and support have allowed us to serve the community well, and we've enjoyed our many interactions

with you. As we prepare to close our retail business, we send a big thanks to you for your kindness and friendship. It's been a pleasure knowing you, and we'll see you around Lake Oswego!

— Fred Squire is the owner of Fred Squire Antiques

I'm most thankful for another awesome year of marriage to Katy and having two great sons, Chris and Ryan. Locally, I'm so proud that Dr. Heather Beck accepted our board's offer to be our new superintendent! Finally, no one could be happier than me living in this great community!

— Bob Barman is the Lake Oswego School Board vice chairman

I am humbled by the blessings of a loving wife, two healthy children who make me laugh every day, our wonderful Westridge students for having such a passion for learning, the tremendous support from our generous community and the extraordinary dedication from our staff.

— Tin Kha is the principal of Westridge Elementary School

This Thanksgiving, we are filled with gratitude for enduring friendships (some of which date back to 1983 at Westridge Elementary), along with new friends who have recently entered our lives. Lake Oswego has blessed us with an outstanding Chamber of Commerce, a committed Community Rowing program and clients who are curious and compassionate about the education of their families and pets. We love the Pacific Northwest, but we live in a truly special place because of the people who support neighborhood opportunities to experience both amazing scenery and a sense of connectedness within the community.

— Katie Brower and Chris Wojda are the owners of Lucid Dog Training in Lake Oswego

This Thanksgiving season, I continue to be extremely thankful for my family. My husband, children, mother and eight siblings have given me so much support, encouragement and love over the years. I am very lucky to have them in my life!

— Jennifer Schiele is the principal of Lakeridge High School

I am thankful for the citizens of our city and members of the business community who support the police department, and am very grateful for the friendships that have developed from our interactions. I am most thankful each and every moment of my life for my wife, who loves me unconditionally, who challenges me, teaches me and, as those who work with me and know me can attest, has made me a better man. For all the things she has done, I am thankful!

— Doug Treat is the traffic lieutenant for the Lake Oswego Police Department

I am thankful for the beauty and bounty of our seasons — vibrant red foliage, crisp apples and Thanksgiving with family; the joy and spirit of Christmas, fresh falling snowflakes, feeling warm with a cup of Chuck's Illy espresso. In spring, yellow crocus delight because they bloom so early; nesting birds and the smell of cut grass bring a feeling of rebirth. I treasure our abundant summer sun, concerts in the park, our farmer's market, fragrant roses and warm sand under my feet. I give thanks for the seasons of my life, as a youngster growing up in a large, boisterous family; a young woman experiencing life through college and travel; as a wife and mother sharing life's sweetest love and now as a senior citizen who appreciates having the time to smell the roses. Happy Thanksgiving, Lake Oswego!

— Leslie Pirrotta is a Lake Oswego wife and mother, PTA president, LOWC president, volunteer and community activist

Besides being thankful for my family and friends, I am thankful for being able to live with my family in what is the finest small community in the country. I have watched our city over many years evolve to now providing the finest education for our children, the finest restaurants, the finest parks, the beauty, the amenities, the cleanliness and, most of all, the finest people. I am thankful to all who have contributed to make Lake Oswego the greatest small city in the U.S. to live in.

— Nick Bunick is a Lake Oswego developer

I'm thankful we have a very supportive community that stays involved in every aspect of our school, helping us to become better in all that we do.

— Ian Lamont is athletic director at Lakeridge High School

This year I am so thankful for my health, my fantastic family, my silly puppy and my wonderful school! Teachers are so thankful for the wonderful Lake Oswego parents who are incredibly involved and supportive!

— Elona Schreiner is a third- and fourth-grade teacher at Westridge Elementary School

I am thankful for the life God has given me! For Mel, my soul mate, who has put up with me for 45 years! For my wonderful family! For my lifelong Sigma Kappa sisters! For my God-given talent for writing! For my physicians, who have helped me to have good mental and physical health! For my Our Lady of the Lake Parish life! I am thankful that I have my Catholic faith to guide me!

— Harriet Vanderbilt is a member of Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Parish

I am extremely thankful for my position at Lakeridge High School. Our students add deep value to my life, and I am very grateful for the relationships I have with them and their families.

— John Parke is assistant principal at Lakeridge High School

I am grateful for the opportunity to live to inspire, not just impress, but to inspire and impress. I am grateful for the opportunity to remember friends, remember family — they are gifts who fill our lives with Beauty and Joy and Grace and make the world we live in a better and happier place.

— Jeff Gudman is a Lake Oswego city councilor

I'm thankful for the great community we live in and what makes it great. I will soon celebrate 33 years practicing law in Lake Oswego and 32 years living here. I'm grateful for longtime employees, for loyalty in employees and friends, and for a lifetime of good friends. I'm grateful for our local fire department and our local police department. ("No call too small!") I'm extremely appreciative of our newspaper, The Review. I'm thankful for leadership and volunteerism throughout Lake Oswego, in my Rotary Club and other service organizations, where thousands of hours of volunteer work make our community what it is. I'm grateful for our mayor and those who serve as volunteers all over our community. Thanks to all who serve.

— Peter Glazer, a trial lawyer in Lake Oswego, is the husband of "super-volunteer" Cyndie Glazer, past president of Lake Oswego Rotary, past president of the Clackamas County Bar Association and past Prime Minister of the Royal Rosarians

I am thankful for all of the artistic people and creative ideas that are constantly bouncing around me. The "Find a Star" Hello LO campaign and the 30 artists in Holiday Gallery are my current interesting projects. Being able to give a fun challenge to the community that supports the arts is my way of giving thanks.

— Jan Rimerman is an award-winning artist

I am thankful for living and working in the best community in America. Teaching in Lake Oswego is an honor, and I am so thankful for the amazing students that join me every day, working hard and doing their best. I am thankful for their parents who support and love them so. I am thankful for Lake Oswego citizens who choose to make education a top priority. I am thankful for the people I work with who bring their best to their jobs with love and laughter.

— Joan Croome is a third- and fourth-grade teacher at Westridge Elementary School

I'm grateful for the beautiful walking paths and hiking trails in Lake Oswego that my family and I often enjoy.

— Vanessa Borovicka, shown here with Jagar, 8, twins Julian and Vallen, 5, and puppy Alvin, 6 months, is a Lake Oswego resident



I am grateful to the amazing volunteers who so generously give of their time and talents. The arts in this community thrive because of their dedication and passion. I am deeply thankful to each and every one of these caring individuals.

I am also so grateful to the wonderful coverage our local paper provides. Not only is The Lake Oswego Review a valuable resource for information, it is also a vital community partner for local businesses and nonprofits.

— Nancy Nye is the director of the Arts Council of Lake Oswego

What am I thankful for at this time of year? Trees! When autumn comes to Lake Oswego, we are engulfed in a magnificent canopy of brilliant foliage. From State Street at E Avenue all the way south through town to the bottom of the hill at McVey, a passageway of leaves envelops us in colors ranging from lime green to golden yellow to vibrant vermilion. It is breathtakingly gorgeous! I will always be awestruck by the beauty of the graceful maples, majestic firs and heavenly scented pine trees that make this place home.

— Joan Freed is an actress, playwright and producer

Aside from the obvious — family and friends, home and health — I find myself being more appreciative of things like words and acts of kindness (often from strangers), the nightly phone conversations with my daughter as we recap the day's events, a neighbor who shares portions of new recipes or whatever she's cooking, newsy e-mails from my faraway granddaughter. I am abundantly blessed in many ways.

— Jo Ann Parsons is a member of the Jottings group at the Lake Oswego Adult Community Center

My wife, Marty, and I have had the privilege of living in Lake Oswego for nearly 30 years. We feel blessed and very fortunate. It has been a great place to raise a family, providing an excellent public school system and an abundance of beautiful parks. We treasure the moments we have had with our children, from swimming at the Uplands Neighborhood Lake Easement to Willamette River walks starting at George Rogers Park. We moved to Lake Oswego in 1985 because it offered the environment we sought in a family-friendly community. In our opinion, it is even better today! Happy Thanksgiving!

— Pete Stiven is a commercial real estate broker with Cushman & Wakefield/NorthMarq and a member of Lake Oswego United Methodist Church

I used to drive a gorgeous Volvo called Pearl. In my eyes, Pearl — born in 1996 — was the most beautiful car on the road: safe, heavy, confident, at one with all that is. Then Pearl got old and needy, so I made a change to teeny weeny Summer Rain — bright blue, adorable and a whole different driving experience.

Summer Rain requires little attention and zips along Hwy. 217 and I-5 as if she's pretending to be a Mini Cooper or Maserati. A dozen Summer Rains would fit into the two-story trucks dominating the freeways.

My trips to Wilsonville from Garden Home to visit my family and get gas at Costco always thrill me. I breathe consciously while looking backward, sideways, forward, speeding up and trying to match my ruthless motorized cohorts. This Thanksgiving, I am thankful for my family, friends, life, breath and the music in my heartbeat. I'm also thankful that I can make it back and forth to Wilsonville in little Summer Rain and be here to tell the story.

— Norma Heyser is a member of the Jottings Group at the Lake Oswego Adult Community Center

I think staying in a place of gratitude helps you see the good in the world. I am grateful for all the people I have met on this journey of being an author and for being able to receive inspiration that helps me write the cute, fun and beautiful stories with positive messages that kids and parents love.

I recently heard from a lady whose comments really touched my heart. She said her little daughter was thrilled to receive the two Tina books for her birthday from her grandmother. When the mom read them, she said she cried because the messages were so sweet and so positive and are so needed in our troubled world. Those words touched me, and help me to keep doing what I am doing, to share my stories with the world.

That is why I have gladly donated 2,000 books to Randall Children's Hospital in Portland, for kids who may not ever get anything to call their own, except what is donated to them. Also, I have given 200 books to the Children's Book Bank, which distributes to children in low income families. For some of them it is their first and only book that they can call their own. I am also happy to donate books to the Calling All Angels organization, which gives a handmade quilt and a children's book to new mothers in need.

My message is of hope and a can-do attitude, because our children really are the future. I think the question is not what kind of world are we leaving for our children and grandchildren, but what kind of children and grandchildren are we leaving for the world. Are they strong? Are they kind? Do they love themselves in a respectful way, honoring who they really are?

I read this recently by Rita F. Pierson: "Every child deserves a champion, an adult who will never give up on them ... who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

Today is a good day for a good day, because it is the only day we are truly blessed with.

— Rosemary Evans is the author of the award-winning Teeny Tiny Tina's children's book series

I'm thankful for so many things, but two top the list. The first is my family, especially my spouse, whose kindness, courage and generosity of spirit makes me strive to be a better person each day. The second springs to mind because of a Time magazine article about Pakistani teen Malala, who the Taliban shot in the head for attending school. She survived and became an advocate for girls' education, recently winning the Nobel Peace Prize. This young heroine makes me feel grateful for my own education, which was possible because of scholarships and

my parents' support — and because I live in a country where women can work to support themselves.

— Jillian Daley is the education reporter for The Lake Oswego Review

I'm thankful, every minute of every day, for my family and friends. I'm thankful for clean water and indoor plumbing, for warmth, for laughter, for a life free of want and need when so many live in hardship and fear. I'm thankful that I have the privilege of spending my days where everyone is entitled to free expression and has the tools to enhance and change their lives. Of course, I'm thankful to work in a place that values, supports and utilizes its public library, a community where we place a premium on education, interaction and individual respect no matter our opinions and differences. And where we still have newspapers.

— Bill Baars is the director of the Lake Oswego Public Library

I am thankful for simple things like smiles and handshakes and words happily shared. And I am thankful for people, who are not so simple. I guess I'm just a fan of co-existence, and who wouldn't be with the lot I'm among each day?

— Rollin Dickinson is a Lakeridge High School assistant principal

As a business owner in Lake Oswego, I am grateful for a remarkable staff of nine incredibly talented women and a very supportive husband, as well as the countless number of wonderful customers who've become friends over the past 17 years! I am grateful for the sound of laughter that I am privileged to hear in my store — every single day.

After losing two very dear friends to cancer this year, I find myself daily contemplating the blessings of good health. I try to live each day mindful of the preciousness of life.

I am truly grateful for the friendships I've experienced through my involvement in several special organizations, including Rotary, the Arts Council and the Chamber of Commerce. My life is richer, beyond measure, as a result of my participation.

— Carol Winston is the owner of Accessories from the Heart in downtown Lake Oswego

I am always and forever thankful for all the patience and love from family and friends, this year particularly so. I am humbled and delighted to have met so many Lake Oswegans during the election season, people whose stories added warmth and color and meaning to the frenzy of campaigning. I am thankful to live in a corner of the world where I can walk through a forest to the top of the world and then down to the water and know that this is home.

— Jackie Manz is a Lake Oswego city councilor-elect

The one thing I am most thankful for in my life right now is to be the father of the best little boy (my son, Luke) in the world and to have the most generous and beautiful wife (Claire) in the

world. I am constantly reminded daily of how lucky I am when I get to see them every day after I come home from work. It is great to see a healthy, trouble-making, little 18-month-old boy run up and hug his dad because he missed him all day, and then I get to spend the rest of the evening with the best wife in the world. Both of them are truly the gifts that are always giving, and I am incredibly blessed to get to be in their lives.

— Brigham Baker is the Lake Oswego High School athletic director

I am most thankful to live in a free country, fortunate to have the love of my family and friends. I am also thankful to live in a community that has supported our business for nearly 16 years. The friendships that Bernard C. Chocolates has afforded us are priceless.

— Laura Adler is the owner of Bernard C. Chocolates in Lake Oswego

I am thankful to be a part of such an incredible community. I am constantly impressed by the talent, passion and dedication within our city's boundaries. It inspires me each and every day. I am also fortunate to have a magnificent group of friends and family that make my life worthwhile.

— Jamie Inglis is manager of the Lake Oswego Farmers Market

I'm thankful that Heather Beck (our new school district superintendent) decided to come to Lake Oswego. I'm also thankful for every staff member in the Lake Oswego School District, and the work they do on behalf of all of our children. I'm thankful for my family and look forward to spending time with them this holiday season.

— Sarah Howell is a Lake Oswego School Board member

Without a doubt, I'm most thankful for family. For loving parents and three protective brothers; for a supportive husband and incomparable in-laws; and above all, for two silly, cuddly kids who bring more joy than I thought possible. I'm thankful for friends, old and new, and I'm thankful for my health and I'm thankful for crisp autumn days. I'm also really thankful for pumpkin pie.

— Hayley Platt is a Portland television personality

I am most thankful for my family and my friends. Who would have thought that being a mermaid would bring my family closer and bring with it some great friends!

— Collette Remsen is founder of Oregon Mermaids and a mermaid herself

I am thankful for all of the blessings in my life: my wife, my kids and the opportunity to spend each day with all of the amazing students and dedicated staff at our school.

— Brian Crawford is a Lake Oswego High School assistant principal

I am thankful that my family and I live in Lake Oswego. I just returned from a national conference of local elected officials and I was reminded of just how grateful we should be. I spoke with leaders from across the country, some of whose cities struggle with crumbling infrastructure without the debt capacity or revenue to fund repairs and maintenance, or whose residents distrust their police, and whose children lack access to a good education; some cities whose Main Streets have withered. These challenges put into perspective the issues we struggle with in Lake Oswego. It highlights our accomplishments on projects like the sewer interceptor and the current water partnership project. It reminds us how the good work of the school district, aided by dedicated volunteers at the Schools Foundation, has made our children's education one of the best in the state. It reinforces the success of the urban renewal district that has helped our downtown grow into a vibrant and attractive area with great shops, restaurants, plazas and public art. While there is still serious and important work ahead, I think this is a good time to give thanks to past leaders who have done such great work making Lake Oswego the place it is today.

— Jon Gustafson is a Lake Oswego city councilor

I am thankful for my wonderful family and the opportunity to work in Lake Oswego. Having worked in other districts in Oregon, I appreciate everything Lake Oswego has to offer.

— Travis Johnson is a Lake Oswego High School assistant principal

I'm grateful that the Lake Oswego Preservation Society continues to enjoy the support of the community, to benefit from a growing membership, and to see the enthusiasm for saving Lake Oswego's oldest home, the Carman House.

— Marylou Colver is the founder and president of the Lake Oswego Preservation Society

I am thankful for my wonderful family who support my endeavors, continually entertaining, challenging and teaching me. I am grateful for the numerous paths and trails that facilitate my running addiction. And I am thankful for this special town whose people are passionate about education, livability and the myriad activities that bring this community together.

— Kerry Griffin is the Lake Oswego Schools Foundation board president

I have been blessed abundantly. I am grateful this Thanksgiving for the gift of life and that the six young adults I like the best in the whole world are my children. I marvel at their strength, courage and how they continue to support and encourage each other while honoring the memory of their brother Tony. I am ever so grateful, too, for my beautiful daughters and son-in-laws and my grandchildren who delight me. Truly, my cup runneth over.

— Kathy Schilling is special events director for the City of Lake Oswego

Another wonderful year. I am thankful to have the opportunity to wake up every day healthy and happy, knowing that even if I hit a bump, I have family and friends (and a cool dog) that love and support me.

— Bonnie Hirshberger is citizen information specialist for the City of Lake Oswego

I am most thankful for the love and thoughtfulness of family and friends, especially this year with the unexpected passing of my 34-year-old nephew. I am most thankful for my nephew's friends and co-workers who provided me and my family with comfort and peace in knowing that my nephew had brightened the lives of so many with his smile and spirit. I am most thankful for Riley, whose tail wags and wet kisses brighten not only my day but the days of so many others.

— Diane Schweisguth is a nurse who gives her dog Riley walks twice a day

I am most grateful to work in and for a community that values what I do.

— Cydney Fletcher is youth and teen activities director for the Lake Oswego Parks & Recreation Department

I am thankful for the wonderful, inspiring, generous family and friends I have and finding that spot on the map almost 30 years ago that landed me in Lake Oswego. I am also thankful that it turns out fat is good for you...Whoohoo!

— Diana Smith-Bouwer is public affairs project specialist for the City of Lake Oswego

On behalf of Lake Oswego School District staff, we are thankful for the parents who entrust their children to us every day. We are privileged to be a part of their lives. We are thankful for the talented and dedicated colleagues who make education their vocation, and we are grateful to be part of a vibrant community that supports our schools in countless ways.

— Lake Oswego School District central office