



# CITY NEWS

Winter 2012

[www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com)

## CUSTOMER OF THE QUARTER

It is our pleasure to recognize Aldeen Pike as the City's CUSTOMER OF THE QUARTER!

Aldeen and her husband Charles have been customers of the City's electric utility for almost 40 years and have been a delight to deal with.

Aldeen was nominated by Laurie Bubar of our Finance Department who reports that Aldeen is always kind, courteous and understanding. She never fails to come up the stairs to City Hall without her 1,000 kWh smile in full display. Laurie reports that Aldeen's patience and kindness, even when she has to wait in line to pay her bill is very much appreciated.



Laurie Bubar and Aldeen Pike  
Photo by: Leanne Steadman

Thank you Aldeen for brightening the day of our Finance Department by your kindness and positive attitude!

Congratulations on being the City of Milton-Freewater's favorite CUSTOMER OF THE QUARTER!

### THANK YOU TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

A big thank you to Hogs Wild 4-H Club and the Milton-Freewater Kiwanis Club for volunteering to change out over 1,000 burned out light bulbs on our Christmas snowflake decorations. Dedicated volunteers were: Blake, McKenna, Hunter and Tiffany Yensen, Andrew, Evan and Tina Kain, Brooke Smiley, Mick York, Corky York, Steven and Karen Haugen, Ernie Knifong and Susie Morris. Thanks to all these dedicated volunteers who helped us light up Milton-Freewater!



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## CAUTION WITH OLD ELECTRIC METER BASES

Our electric utility has been in the process of changing out old electric meters for our new Smart Grid automated meters for over a year now. To date, we have successfully switched out over 2,700 meters for our customers.

In performing this upgrade for our customers, we have become aware of a potential safety hazard on the customer's side of the electric meter base. I am referring to homes that have older meter bases that the electric meter plugs into. In some rare instances, the "jaws" of the meter base into which the utility's meter plugs into, have become loose and weakened with age. This can result in a loose electrical connection which in turn produces heat and could cause arcing in the meter base.

### SIGNS TO LOOK FOR:

\*Lights and appliances in your home that flicker, or dim and then brighten sporadically.

If this happens call the utility immediately by dialing (541) 938-8232 during regular business hours Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm or after hours at (541) 938-5511 to dispatch a line crew out to inspect the problem. The customer will then need to contact a private electrician to repair the problem with the meter base.

If the meter base is smoking or arcing, always call 911 for emergency personnel to be dispatched.

Again, this instance is not common. In over 2,700 meters switched out to date, we have discovered only two meter bases which had this problem. But, as always, the safety of our customers is always our first priority, so we chose to make our customers aware of the warning signs.

# LEVEE REPAIR UPDATE



*from Linda Hall, City Manager*



Nursery Bridge



Photo submitted by: John Wells P.E., Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc.

The Milton-Freewater Water Control District Board has had a very busy year. Since voters passed the Bond Measure a year ago last November, the Board has overseen the repair and improvements of over 80% of the deficiencies which caused our levee to be de-certified. This accomplishment becomes even more impressive when one realizes that all this work has to be accomplished within a very small period of time (usually only three months) that State and Federal officials will allow the workers to be in the river to make the repairs.

Two of the problems with the levee which were major contributors to the levee's decertification were serious issues with overgrown vegetation on the levee, and the degradation of the Nursery Bridge drop structure. Both of these repairs have been completed!

Vegetation on the levee was so overgrown and thick in many places, the levee itself could not even be seen. Before this work could be tackled, important compromises had to be negotiated between the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, who contribute to making sure the levee provides excellent protection from high water flood events, and the State and Federal agencies, who safeguard the natural resources that makes our country so beautiful and valued. After many discussions, the Water Control Board was successful in finding the middle of the road (or should we say river?) compromises that resulted in a removal of vegetation on the levee that doesn't resemble the barren landscape of the moon, but still protects the integrity of the levee system.

One of the most expensive and onerous deficiencies cited against our levee was the degradation of the Nursery Bridge drop structure. This structure was quite damaged and had very large holes in the bottom of the structure where the force of the falling water had worn huge holes away.

The Water Control Board, working with their engineer, John Wells of Anderson Perry and Associates, re-designed the structure so it will be repaired and improved upon for future generations.

All these repairs and several others were accomplished this year.

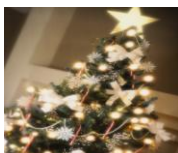
SO, WHEN WILL WE BE RELEASED FROM THE MANDATE TO PURCHASE FLOOD INSURANCE?

**The target date for FEMA to lift this mandate is early 2013.**

The remaining repairs and improvements to the levee are planned to be completed next summer. After that, all the engineering and analytical data will be gathered up to prove that the repairs and improvements made to the levee will be sufficient to withstand a 140 year flood event. The Water Control Board estimates that they will be ready to submit the application to FEMA by the fall of 2012 to be released from the flood plan maps which require us to purchase flood insurance on all federally backed mortgages.

The City will be assisting the Water Control Board in these efforts. The City is also carefully tracking the extension of our "Preferred Risk Policy Insurance" timelines, so our citizens can hopefully continue to pay the greatly discounted insurance premiums and not the standard rates, which are 10 times as expensive. It is the plan that our city will be released from the requirement to purchase insurance prior to the time that the preferred risk rates would expire for us. FEMA is aware of the great progress our community has made and the extraordinary efforts accomplished to address our levee's deficiencies and they are impressed and supportive of our efforts.

**A big thank you goes out to the Water Control Board: Chairman Manford Anliker, Vice Chairman Sam Hopkins-Hubbard, Members Brad Humbert, Vern Rodighiero and Roger Cosner, and their Secretary/Treasurer Vicki Lee. These volunteers have donated thousands of hours working on the levee and managing these projects for all our benefit. John Wells, lead engineer for the project, of Anderson Perry has also gone above and beyond with his efforts on this huge project and we are certainly grateful for his hard work and talent as well.**



## Christmas Tree Removal

City residents may have their Christmas trees removed at no charge during the week of January 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> 2012. All lights, stands and decorations must be removed and trees must be placed along curb within designated dates. Inquiries can be directed to Public Works at 938-8270, 8272, 8274 or 8276.



South Main & Key Boulevard Extension

Photo submitted by: Jeremy Morris, P.E., Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc.



College Street Pedestrian Improvements  
Photo submitted by: Jeremy Morris, P.E., Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc.



S. Mill Street Widening Improvements  
Photo submitted by: Jeremy Morris, P.E., Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc.



South Main Street Improvements  
Photo submitted by: Jeremy Morris, P.E., Anderson-Perry & Associates, Inc.

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Scholarship applications are now available for individuals interested in the outside power lineman, electrical engineering or line staking technician trade to receive one \$2,000 scholarship to an accredited line college; graduate or undergraduate course of study at an accredited college, university, or vocational/technical school of the recipients choice. Funding for this program is provided by donations from City Light & Power Linemen and the City of Milton-Freewater Electric Department Community Support Fund.

Qualifications: High School Graduate or GED  
For More Information: Visit school counseling office  
Call 541-938-8277  
Visit us online at: [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com)



**DEADLINE: April 13, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.**

Applications can be obtained from and submitted to:  
City of Milton-Freewater, Attn: Electric Department, PO Box 6, 722 S. Main, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 or City Shop & Warehouse, PO Box 6, 501 Lamb Street, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

You may also download an application from the City's website [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com) click on the News and Announcements link.

## CONSERVATION CORNER

### RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY CITY LIGHT & POWER

FREE energy audits and FREE 'No Obligation' bids (by our approved contractors)

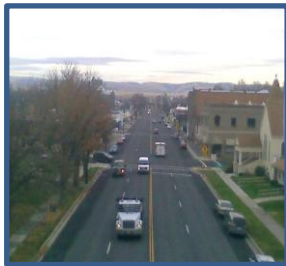
**REBATES OFFERED:**

- Insulation: \$0.50/square foot (rebate will not exceed 50% of total project cost)
- Windows - \$3.00/square foot for approved windows
- Heat Pumps - \$400.00 to \$1,400.00
- Ductless Heat Pumps - \$1,200.00
- Energy Star Appliances - Contact Pat Didion at 541-938-8237 for current offers.

We also offer a residential loan program for the measures listed above for customers with approved credit.

**THERE ARE SPECIFICATIONS FOR ALL MEASURES TO QUALIFY FOR REBATES.**

**PLEASE CONTACT PAT DIDION AT 541-938-8237 BEFORE INSTALLING OR PURCHASING ANY OF THESE MEASURES TO ENSURE REBATE QUALIFICATION.**



## HOLIDAY CLOSURES



Observed: Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Garbage Day: Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>



Observed: Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Garbage Day: Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>



Observed: Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>  
Garbage Day: Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

City of  
*Milton-Freewater*  
PO Box 6  
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO  
MILTON-FREEWATER, OR

CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER INFORMATION

Aquatic Center	938.9166
City Manager	938.8242
City Recorder	938.8233
Community Development	938.8236
Conservation	938.8237
Electric Department	938.8231 or 938.8232
Engineering	938.8230 or 938.8238
Finance Department (utility bill payments/taxi tickets)	938.5531
Fire Business	938.8256
Golf Course	938.7284
Human Resources	938.8243
Library	938.8247
Municipal Court	938.8203
Planning & Zoning	938.8234 or 938.8235
Police Business	938.5511
Public Works	938.8270, 938.8272, 938.8274 or 938.8276

Visit us online at [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com)

## MEETINGS & EVENTS

### January 2012

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Planning Commission 7 p.m.

Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.

Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

Library Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

### February 2012

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

Planning Commission 7 p.m.

Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

Library Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

### March 2012

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

Planning Commission 7 p.m.

Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Library Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall 938-5531, or write the City of Milton-Freewater, PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 if you will need any special accommodations or an interpreter to attend or participate in the meeting.

NEXT ISSUE: April 1<sup>st</sup>

Milton-Freewater City News – PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 • Publisher/Editor: Krista Gannon • City Manager: Linda Hall