



Since 1889



City of Milton-Freewater 2019 Summer Newsletter

From
the desk
of...

our City Manager.....

FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET FOR OUR CITY

July 1st is the beginning of a new fiscal year for the City, and our City Council and Budget Committee have approved a balanced budget of \$36,022,418. This total amount includes an all-time record high of \$4,347,587 in free GRANT MONEY coming in to our city to save the citizens money on major projects and developments.

There are NO RATE or FEE INCREASES proposed for any city utilities. We are proud to report that there are no reductions in services for our citizens in any of our programs or departments. This is getting more and more challenging to keep up, as Milton-Freewater's base property tax rate of \$3.7499 has not increased in over 50 years. It is also the lowest tax rate in our vicinity.

Here is a comparison you may find interesting:

TAX RATES per \$1,000 of assessed value

Milton-Freewater	\$3.7499
Weston	\$5.6614
Hermiston	\$6.0860
Pendleton	\$6.5771
Athena	\$7.5678



PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT

We also have some of the lowest utility rates in the region as well, and we will continue to work hard to keep these rates as low as possible while maintaining a high level of service.

Thank you to our dedicated Council and Budget Committee members for their review of and work on our budget. Council members are: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Ed Chesnut, Jose Garcia, Brad Humbert, Steve Irving, Orrin Lyon, and Verl Pressnall. Budget Committee Members are Wes Koklich and Lindsay Winsor.

Our complete budget document is available for review on-line at our web site www.mfcity.com or by checking it out at the library or city hall finance department. And always, if you have questions please feel free to email me at linda.hall@milton-freewater-or.gov or call me direct at (541) 938-8242.

Come down and see the exciting new changes and upgrades at the City of Milton-Freewater Aquatic Center!!



Open daily beginning June 15-August 18, 2019

Please visit our website—www.mfcity.com to find out all the available options our pool has to offer, or you can call and speak to our helpful staff at (541) 938-9166. Hope to see you soon!!



What is NEW in our City???

Things are happening in our fair city!



- *Not only do we have a brand new school, but the athletic field complex at the old Grove School site is under construction and slated to be completed in the fall.
- *We have one new subdivision (Vista Ridge) approved by our Planning Commission for 49 houses on the south hill behind Sykes, and another subdivision is likely to apply for approval in the very near future!
- *Thanks to our citizens approving a local option tax for parks and recreation facilities, the Aquatic Center has been given a fresh coat of paint inside and out, new lockers and bathroom amenities, new sealant on the bottom of the pool's surface, and new umbrellas for the pool deck. Stay tuned for news of other improvements to be made with these monies in the days to come! We are using the priorities set for us by the public in determining which facilities to spend the money on first.
- *We have been successful in receiving a grant to study the possibility and plans for a wine production facility that would enable dozens of local wineries located in the Rocks District of Milton Freewater to produce their wine inside the Rocks District boundaries so that the wine produced here can be permitted to reflect its prestigious origin on the label.
- *9 new businesses have located in Milton Freewater in the first half of 2019.
- *We will be expanding our water infrastructure to serve customers north of the city up to Cobb Road. This will be paid for completely by the State of Oregon and not cost our citizens any funding.
- *Our recycling services are being well received by our citizens and more folks each day are taking advantage of the drop off sites on County Road and Mill Street. If you have not visited our recycling sites, please plan to do so soon--- Martin will be waiting to greet you and answer any questions you may have, AND..... we will soon be able to accept used cooking oil as well as motor oils!

Summer time is a great time at the Milton-Freewater Public Library!!!



LIBRARIES™
ROCK!

Teen Summer Challenge

Beginning June 17th – August 30th Teens Aged 13 - 18 who check out books from the library will get a special scratch-off ticket, and will win a prize each time they check out a book. They will also be entered into win our grand prizes which include an iPad or a \$50 Dutch Brothers Gift Certificate. This program is free and all teens are welcome to sign up.



Adult Summer Reading Bingo

Do you love to read? Do you love playing games? Play the library's Summer Reading Bingo Challenge. Beginning June 17th – August 30th adults can sign up and get their bingo cards. There are challenges on each of the squares for you to complete by reading, and you will be entered into win a Fitbit, a Kindle Fire, or a Dutch Brothers Gift Card by participating. This program is free and all people over 18 are welcome to participate.

Children's Summer Reading 2019 at the Milton-Freewater Public Library will be "Out of this World!" Children ages birth to 13 can sign up for our free nine week program that is all about space. Sign-ups begin June 1 and the program runs from June 18 to Aug. 15. Children can attend weekly events, log their hours of reading, and check out books for special tickets to enter to win awesome prizes like gift cards to Inland Octopus toy store, a large doll house, and a chance for two children to pick out a bike and helmet of their choosing! Each week's activities will have a different theme and children can make crafts such as straw rockets, a "Space in a Bottle" craft, and constellations with real glow-in-the-dark stars. Programs for children aged 6 to 13 are Tuesdays evenings from 6 to 7 p.m. and Story and Craft time for children ages birth to age 6 are Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Please call or visit the library for more information. This program is free to all children in our community and while we encourage attendance to the weekly programs (because they are FUN!), attendance isn't necessary to win prizes. Just sign up, read, craft, and WIN!

Safety Reminder from your Milton-Freewater Electric Department:

Only a trained professional can tell if a downed line is an electrical line that has active power in it, or if it is some other type of utility line. Please remember to always be safe and cautious and **NEVER TOUCH OR MOVE** a downed line. Always call the Milton-Freewater electric department to have any downed lines checked by certified personnel. You can reach the electric department Monday—Friday from 7am to 4pm at (541) 938-8232, or after hours on the non-emergency number of (541) 938-5511.

IS IT HOT OR NOT???

You can see the downed line in the below photo.....



Conservation Corner

Conservation contact number (541)-938-8237

Now is the time to upgrade to a new Ductless or Central Air Heat Pump.

Our rebate or loan program can help pay for the system, call us today for more information.

BPA is starting a new (very much simplified) Commercial HVAC Program that will help our Commercial customers to purchase high efficiency heating and cooling equipment.

Call the Conservation Office or ask your Heating and Cooling Contractor about our program.

Summer can be very hot in our valley. Ceiling or floor fans run at low speeds can help you feel much cooler by helping move air around your house.

Please make sure that you keep the fans out of reach of little children.

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

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City Council

Lewis S. Key, Mayor

Orrin Lyon, Ward 1

Bradley J. Humbert, Ward 2

Jose Garcia, Ward 3

Verl Pressnall, At Large/Position 1

Steve Irving, At Large/Position 2

Edwin E. Chesnut, At Large/Position 3

City Manager

Linda Hall

Meetings & Closures

July 2019

- 1st—Planning Commission Meeting—7pm—Albee Room
- **4th—July 4th Holiday—observed—Offices Closed**
- 8th—City Council Meeting—7pm—Albee room

August 2019

- 5th—Planning Commission Meeting—7pm—Albee Room
- 12th—City Council Meeting—7pm—Albee Room

September 2019

- **2nd—Labor Day Holiday—Observed—Offices Closed**
- 3rd—Planning Commission Meeting—7pm—Albee Room
- 9th—CITY COUNCIL MEETING—7pm—Albee Room

Library board meetings typically held the last Thursday of the month, 4pm in the Monahan room. Please check with the library by calling 541-938-8247.

Recreation Committee meetings typically held the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm in the Monahan room. Please check with Public Works by calling 541-938-8270

Please check the city's website calendar for any changes/cancellations to the above schedule at www.mfcity.com

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall at 541.938.5531, if you will need any special accommodations or an interpreter to attend or to participate in the meeting.

Holiday Refuse Schedule

July 4th—Thursday

Date Observed : Thursday, July 4, 2019

Alternate Collection Day: Friday July 5, 2019

Recycling Depot Closures

Date Observed : Thursday, July 4, 2019

September 2nd—Monday

Date Observed: Monday, September 2, 2019

Alternate Collection Day: Tuesday, September 3 2019

Please remember that if your regular collection day for refuse falls on one of the observed holidays, your refuse will be picked up on the alternate collection day. Please be sure your cans are out and clear for pick-up on the alternate collection day.
Thank you

Publisher/Editor: Laurie Bubar