

# City News

Spring 2014

City of Milton-Freewater - PO Box 6, 722 S. Main Street, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 - www.mfcity.com

## REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENT TO SEWER PLANT FACILITY

*Update from City Manager Linda Hall*

A comprehensive and encompassing project will soon be underway at the City's wastewater treatment facility.

It all started when the plant's sewer digester (which operates like the "stomach" of the facility) developed a very large structural crack. Crews immediately took measures to protect the facility and temporarily fix the problem, but the Public Works Superintendent and PW Supervisor knew we were facing a very big problem. The Department of Environmental Quality was notified, as they are the regulatory agency that permits our facility to operate.

The City has been working in conjunction with the DEQ under special conditions to operate our plant, until we can get our repairs completed. The City Council instructed staff to carefully study the issue, so that all options for repair were considered. We wanted to make sure not only this issue was solved, but hopefully improve the overall function and efficiency of the plant for now and future generations.

The results of this comprehensive study were that several improvements were needed to our plant, and not just the repair of the digester. Estimates were prepared and a price tag of \$3.305 million was the total estimated cost. Staff immediately set about seeking funding sources, so as to keep any impact on our citizens' rates as minimal as possible.

To our great delight, we were successful to a large degree! We were able to secure a TWO MILLION DOLLAR GRANT, and the balance of \$1.305 million will be paid with a low interest loan. The sources for these programs are through our State of Oregon Lottery Funds and also Federal Funds from the Oregon Community Development Block Grant Program. We are very grateful for these funds! We may still need to raise our sewer rates, but anticipate any increase will be minimal.

We are expecting construction on the plant facility to begin this summer and take approximately a year to complete. The result will be a much more efficiently operating plant with sufficient capacity to serve the future of Milton-Freewater residents as well.

### City Council

Lewis Key, Mayor

Orrin Lyon, Ward 1

Brad Humbert, Ward 2

Jeff Anliker, Ward 3

Sam Hopkins-Hubbard

- AL/Pos. 1

Steve Irving - AL/Pos. 2

Ed Chesnut - AL/Pos. 3

### City Manager

Linda Hall



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Spring Clean Up

## Crosswalk upgrades in Milton-Freewater

*Information from ODOT for OR Hwy 11 (Columbia St.) / NE First Ave intersection*

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is installing crosswalk upgrades in Milton-Freewater at the intersection of OR Hwy 11 (Columbia Street) and NE First Ave where the existing traffic signal is located. Three new Rapid Flash Beacons will be installed with a raised pedestrian refuge/median in the center lane of the five-lane road. Curb extensions, ADA upgrades and other improvements that will make this crossing safer for pedestrians and motor vehicles. The existing traffic signal and overhead wires will be removed once the new beacons and upgrades are installed. Work on the project began mid-February. The new beacons will be activated in March or April.

The existing traffic signal will soon be considered inadequate and won't meet federal standards. Because the signal does not face NE First Ave motorists may fail to see that someone is crossing OR Hwy 11.

The new Rapid Flash Beacon emits light in all directions and will easily be seen by motorists on OR 11 as well as NE First Ave, providing greater visibility than the existing traffic signal. The pedestrian refuge in the middle of the highway where the turn lane now exists will also provide a safe area for persons to stop and wait for traffic before continuing across the multi-lane highway.

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**Want a consistent utility payment amount?**



Join our Equal Pay Plan – Also known as Budget Plan. Here’s how it works...

We compute the amount of your utilities used the previous 12 months (you must have lived at the residence one year). The total of your previous year’s utilities along with your account balance at the time of your May statement are divided into 12 equal payments. (Note: If your account balance at the time of your May statement is more than \$50.00 you may not qualify for the Equal Pay Plan.) Your first payment will be on your May statement. Each May your budget payment amount will be recalculated. Adjustments may be made within the budget year (May-April) should the budget amount not cover increased usage. The budget amount is required to be paid as billed. Late, missed or budget amounts not paid in full may cause you to lose the privilege of participating. Your final billing for the budget year will be issued in April and will need to be paid in full unless it is a **CREDIT**.

**How do I join? Complete the form below and return it on or before April 18th.**

**IMPORTANT!** If you were on last year’s EQUAL PAY PLAN, you will be put on next year’s plan automatically, if your account balance at the time of your May statement is less than \$50.00. Should you NOT wish to continue on the plan please note below.

Please include me in the Equal Pay Plan	I do not wish to continue with the Equal Pay Plan
NAME: _____	ACCOUNT NUMBER: _____
ADDRESS: _____	PHONE NUMBER: _____
SIGNATURE: _____	DATE: _____
Questions can be directed to our Finance Department at 541-938-5531	



**SAVE MORE TREES!**  
Go Green with Paperless Statements.

**What are paperless statements?** Paperless statements include electronic statements and other account information posted online in the e-Bill History tab in Xpressbillpay.com. You will receive an e-mail notifying you of the availability of your paperless statements online. They are provided at no cost to you and you can easily switch back to paper statements at any time. Paperless statements are secure and convenient. For information on setting up this feature, please call us at 541-938-5531.

**HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

**Memorial Day**  
City Offices **WILL BE CLOSED**  
Observed: Monday 5/26

Refuse & Recycling Service: Tuesday



To participate, please cut here and remit with your next payment.

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM – *Customers Helping Customers!***

City Light & Power’s Energy Assistance Program is managed in cooperation with the Salvation Army to help the under privileged in our community pay their winter heating bills. The money received through this program stays in Milton-Freewater.

If you are a customer interested in helping others, simply mark one of the pledge options below and mail this insert back with your next payment or drop it by City Hall. City Light and Power will add the amount to your bill each month for as long as you wish. Or you may send a check payable to “Energy Assistance Program” in the amount of your desired contribution. **ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED WILL BE MATCHED BY CITY LIGHT & POWER (up to a total of \$4,000).** Your contribution is fully tax deductible. There is no obligation and you can cancel at any time.

**TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

(check one below)	(check one below)	
One Dollar (\$1.00)	One Month	Signature _____
Two Dollars (\$2.00)	Six Months	Date _____
\$ _____ Dollars	Continuous	Name & Address (please print) _____

Individuals interested in applying to receive Energy Assistance benefits may do so by calling the Salvation Army at 509-529-9470.



## Crosswalk upgrades in Milton-Freewater

- continued from page 1

### How the new crosswalk flashing beacons operate:

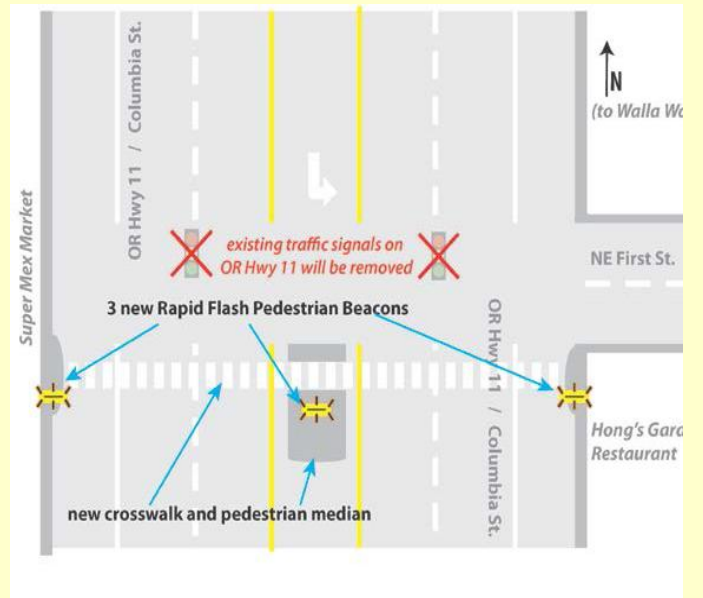
- Pedestrian pushes the button near crossing sign when they are ready to cross the street.
  - When activated, the beacon will begin flashing alternating yellow colored lights similar to the pace of a strobe light.
  - When lights are flashing and/or when pedestrians are present at crosswalk, motorists need to stop ahead of the intersection.
  - Once all vehicles are stopped the pedestrian can travel across the roadway.
  - Vehicles are safe to travel after all pedestrians have passed through the lane they are **using plus one additional lane.**
- Similar beacons installed throughout the state and across the country are helping reduce vehicle vs. pedestrian crashes. ODOT and the City of Milton-Freewater urge pedestrians and motorists to pay extra attention in the area as everyone becomes accustomed to this safety feature and the traffic signal changes.

Successful operation of the crossing signal requires cooperation and understanding by both the pedestrian and drivers of motorized vehicles.

- Pedestrians should make eye contact with drivers and ensure their vehicles have come to a complete stop before crossing the highway.
- Even if the light is activated, it is not safe to cross the highway until all vehicles are stopped. Drivers and pedestrians need to keep a close watch out for each other.

The new flashing beacons are helping to improve crosswalk safety at numerous locations throughout the state. Drivers and pedestrians, however, need to continue to use caution and keep a close watch out for each other.

**For more information:** Interested parties can contact ODOT Region 5 Public Information Officer Tom Strandberg at (541) 963- 1330, or by email at [thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us](mailto:thomas.m.strandberg@odot.state.or.us). This flyer, along with a link to a short animated Flashing Beacon Video is also posted on the ODOT Region 5 Web at [www.tinyurl.com/odot-region5](http://www.tinyurl.com/odot-region5)



**'14 SUMMER READING**

**FIZZ BOOM READ**

Sign Up @ the Library 6/10  
 Program begins 6/17  
 Ages 3-12 welcome

**BUILDING A FENCE?**  
 Be sure to get a permit first!  
 Contact the Planning Department.

### CONSERVATION CORNER

#### RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION REBATES

INSULATION	\$0.050/SQ FT
WINDOWS	\$3.00/SQ FT
HEAT PUMPS	\$500-\$1,400
DUCTLESS HEAT PUMP	\$800
ENERGY START CLOTHES WASHER	\$30 TO \$70
ENERGY STAR REFRIGERATION	\$15

#### ENERGY LOAN PROGRAM GUIDELINES

(FOR HEAT PUMPS, INSULATION OR WINDOWS)

APPLY FOR LOAN THROUGH ELECTRIC DEPT.

	LOAN FEE	INTEREST RATE
LOANS UNDER \$5,000	\$150	6%
LOANS \$5,000 TO \$15,000	\$300	4%

**ALL PROJECTS MUST BE PRE-APPROVED BEFORE THE PROJECT BEGINS.** For more information contact the Conservation Office at 541.938.8237.

**Spring Clean Up**  
 4/17-4/19

**City Refuse Paying Customers ONLY!**

Hours: Thur & Fri 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Sat 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Closed daily from 11-12 for lunch.

No hazardous materials, car batteries, tires on rims or covered electronic devices (computers, televisions, etc.).

Visit us online at [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com) or call us at 541-938-8270 for more information.

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

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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 or 938.8272

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



# Meetings & Events

## Meetings & Closures

### APRIL 2014

- 7 Planning Commission – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 14 City Council – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 24 Budget Committee – 7 p.m. Albee Room

### MAY 2014

- 5 Planning Commission – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 12 City Council – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 26 Memorial Day – City Offices Closed
- 29 Library Board 7 p.m. Monahan Room

### JUNE 2014

- 2 Planning Commission – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 9 City Council – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 23 **City Council – 7 p.m. Albee Room\***
- 26 Library Board 7 p.m. Monahan Room

## Events & Dates to Remember

### APRIL 2014

- 4 Oldies Night –7:30 – 10:30 @ library
- 11 2014 Scholarships Due – to Electric Dept.
- 17-19 Spring Clean Up – City refuse customers
- 18 Budget /Equal Pay Plan Applications Due

### MAY 2014

- 2 Oldies Night –7:30 – 10:30 @ Library
- 27 Memorial Day Refuse - 5/26 & 5/27 routes

### JUNE 2014

- 6 Oldies Night –7:30 – 10:30 @ Library
- 9 & 10 Swim Lesson Sign Up @ pool – Session1
- 10 Summer Reading Program Sign up @ library
- 11 Pool First Day – open for season
- 17 Summer Reading Program @ library
- 6/23-7/11 Swim Lesson – Session I @ pool
- Wednesday's Farmers Market 4 to 7 p.m. @ Orchard Park

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall at 541-938-5531, 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.

**\*Tentative Meeting Date**

**Special thanks to Councilor Ed Chesnut for providing the front page photograph.**

Next issue: July 1<sup>st</sup>

Publisher/Editor – Krista Gannon

City Manager – Linda Hall