

# City News

Summer 2013

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

City of Milton-Freewater – PO Box 6 – 722 S. Main, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

## FLOOD INSURANCE UPDATE

*from City Manager Linda Hall*

**GOOD NEWS!** The Flood Risk Maps for Milton-Freewater have been revised to take virtually the entire City out of flood zones which carry the mandate to purchase flood insurance. They take effect September 20, 2013.

The Water Control District, who has jurisdictional authority over the levee, completed the repairs and improvements to the levee and contracted with Anderson-Perry and Associates for the engineering and certification proving the repairs are adequate to protect against a major flood event. These repairs were completed by December of 2012. New maps were drawn up depicting the lowered flood risk and submitted to FEMA for approval. We received FEMA's approval late this spring, and notified citizens of the Council's intent to adopt the newly revised maps.

Council unanimously adopted the new maps on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Although the City Planning Commission and City Council have adopted the maps, FEMA has their own timeline and adoption process, which takes longer than our local governmental process. The new maps take effect with FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program on September 20, 2013.

Many people have asked me to detail what this means for individual property owners who have mortgages which are currently paying mandated flood insurance. I will attempt to answer these questions **to the best of my knowledge and research:** (please remember that we are not flood insurance experts nor do we speak for the National Flood Insurance Program Administration!)

**Q:** When can I stop paying Flood Insurance?

**A:** Lender required flood insurance premiums must continue to be paid in full until the September 20, 2013 date. If mortgage holders stop before this date, the bank or lending institution may "force place" the insurance onto your mortgage payment at as much as 3 times the original rate!

HOWEVER, homeowners should start ASAP to notify their bank that the maps will be changing on September 20, 2013 and supply the bank with a copy of the NEW map depicting their home in the new zone.

Here are the steps:

- 1) Obtain a copy of the "FIRMette map" depicting your home and its new flood risk zone, effective September 20, 2013. Our City Planning Department can assist with this.
- 2) Provide the copy of the new map to your mortgage lender and inform them of the new flood risk zone designation which relieves property owners of the mandate to purchase flood insurance.
- 3) Obtain a letter from your mortgage lender stating that the subject project is no longer required to have a flood insurance policy. The letter must state the mortgage holder's name and address of the subject property. It should also state that the former maps mandated the purchase of flood insurance on this property, but as of September 20, 2013 this will no longer be required.
- 4) If you purchased flood insurance through an insurance carrier, provide that insurance agent with a copy of the lender's letter, the copy of the new flood map and ask to sign a policy cancellation request form.

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## Flood Insurance Update – continued from Page 1

5) From that point, the insurance agent will process the cancellation of the flood insurance policy and process the refund. According to information provided to us, those of you who paid your flood insurance premiums 6 months prior to September 20<sup>th</sup> or 6 months after September 20<sup>th</sup>, a full refund will be given.

**Q:** What if I have already paid my flood insurance for the year, or will have had to pay it before September 20<sup>th</sup>?

**A:** As stated above, you should still pay the premium in full if the renewal comes due before September 20<sup>th</sup>, BUT it is our understanding that if the mortgage holder gets the flood insurance policy cancellation form processed within six months after the September 20<sup>th</sup> date, (March 20, 2014) a full refund will be given.

I realize this is not the most ideal resolution that we were all hoping for, but please do not lose sight of the fact that it is still very good news. Our hats are off to the Milton-Freewater Water Control District Board, their Lead Engineer, John Wells of Anderson Perry and the many, many community partners, such as the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (Steven Patten and Brian Wolcott) who worked so hard on this huge project to bring us to this successful point. Call us if you need further information---we will do our best to help!

## New Electric Department Superintendent on the Job!



On June 10, 2013 Rick Rambo, a familiar face here at the city, took over the reins as our new Electric Superintendent. Formerly our line crew foreman and prior to that a journeyman lineman Rick is proud to serve our citizens and community and has been since he joined the city in 1984. Rick replaced long-tenured Electric Superintendent Mike Charlo who retired in April of this year.

City Manager Linda Hall thanked Mr. Charlo for his 31 years of dedicated service to the City and added that she welcomes Mr. Rambo to his new position. Congratulations to Rick and Mike!

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

**Observed: July 4<sup>th</sup> – City Offices Closed**

**Refuse & Recycling Collection: July 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Pool – Open regular hours**

### LABOR DAY

**Observed: September 2<sup>nd</sup> – City Offices Closed**

**Refuse & Recycling Collection: September 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Pool – Open regular hours through 9/2**

## Public Information and Service Announcement Regarding Dogs

Due to budgetary considerations, for the remainder of this year's City budget, and continuing on into future budget years, the City will no longer impound dogs running at large unless they are a clear and obvious threat to the physical safety of people or other dogs. This means that dogs which are simply an annoyance by the very fact that they are out and about, unless danger is present, will not be impounded. Therefore, citizens who choose to capture non-aggressive dogs at large and restrain them on the citizen's own property assume responsibility for the animal---the City will no longer accept or take custody of such dogs.

This has been a difficult decision at which to arrive. It is based strictly on budgetary issues that dictate such a change in City animal enforcement practice is necessary. This move helps the City maintain essential services that would be deemed of a more priority nature. Again, dogs that are clearly a danger to people or other dogs will continue to be dealt with, and impounded if possible.

Of course it is always the goal of the City to reunite dogs with their owners, but depending on the circumstances, owners might likely receive citations for their dogs being at large. This makes it very important that dog owners maintain current vaccinations and licensing on all adult dogs they own. "Adult dog" typically means a dog that has reached six months of age. Having a current City dog license on your pet helps the City reunite dogs with their owners when found at large.

The City realizes that this is a significant change from past practice, and hopes that our citizens will be patient and understand the need behind it.

Milton-Freewater  
**FARMER'S MARKET**


**Wednesday's in June through September from 4 – 7 p.m. @  
Orchard Park.**

Visit new web page at [mffarmersmarket.org](http://mffarmersmarket.org)

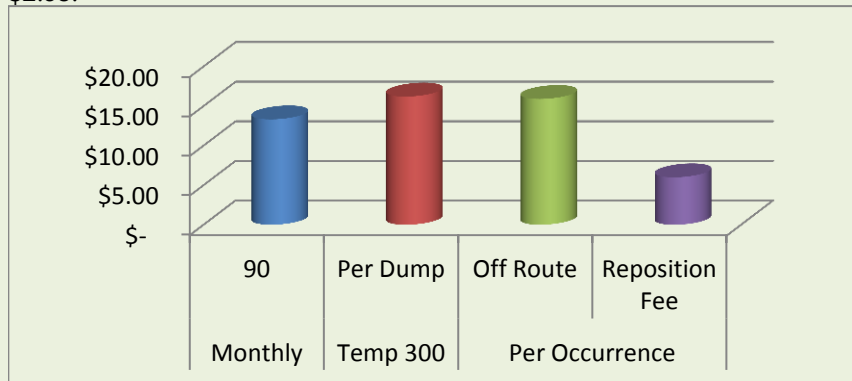


## AVOID EXTRA GARBAGE FEES

As part of your City garbage service, you are issued a container for automated collection once per week for a monthly charge of \$13.32. Collection times vary and are not scheduled on your garbage day, so be sure your container is placed for pickup by 6 a.m.

If you have extra waste **PLEASE do not do this:** 

Give us a call and we can offer you additional services such as additional cans, larger temporary cans, etc. Overfilling your regular residential garbage can costs more than your monthly service by \$2.58.



Help us to better serve you! To ensure you are not assessed additional fees or that your garbage is not skipped over (when we go back an off-route fee is assessed), we ask the following:

- **PLACEMENT** - Make Sure your container handle faces to house and the lid opens toward the street. Keep a minimum 3' area around your container free from objects such as buildings, fences, vehicles, your recycle bin, etc. Once emptied we ask that the can be removed from the street to allow us to sweep your street.
- **FILLING YOUR CAN** – In addition to not overfilling your container, please bag all waste. This helps from having your waste blown all over town or falling on the ground.
- **SAFETY** – No burning or hot items shall be placed in the can at any time. Cans are expensive and will cost you to replace if negligence causes damage.
- **COVERED ELECTRONIC DEVICES** – **DO NOT** place items such as TV's & computers (laptop and desktop) in your garbage. Recycle them for free at Humbert Refuse and Recycling off Sunnyside Rd Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

We offer a variety of additional services as well as two complimentary clean up events each year for active city refuse customers. We are here to serve! If you need assistance please contact the Public Works Department at 938-8270, 8272 or 8274.

Please recycle using the weekly curbside recycling service. Items accepted are plastic bottles, corrugated cardboard, glass bottles and jars, newspaper, magazines & office paper, tin & aluminum cans. Do not put your recyclables in garbage bags or it may be assumed to be garbage. For more information on recycling please contact Horizon Project, Inc. at 938-5458.

### **IMPORTANT!** HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Whether it be your address, phone number, mailing address or your name, if you have a change please notify us. We use this information in case of an unexpected service interruption or if we find that your water or energy usage is higher than usual so we can try to notify you of a potential problem before you receive an unusually high utility bill in the mail. Changes can be made by notating them on the back of your utility bill remittance or you can **stop by City Hall and we would be happy to be of service to you!**



Overfilling your garbage can results in the can to not be dumped which means you will be charged an off-route fee of \$15.90 when we come back, after you have unloaded the overflow.

## SWIM LESSONS

Cost:  
 \$30.00 city resident  
 \$35.00 non-city resident



Sign up at the pool from 6 to 8 p.m.  
 Session 3 7/8 & 7/9  
 Session 4 7/22 & 7/23

Lessons are offered Monday- Friday between 9 and 11:15 a.m. Sessions are 30 minutes daily for two weeks.



## CONSERVATION CORNER

Summer is here!

Keep cool with a new heat pump. Rebates are available through the Conservation Office.

Need new windows? We can help.

Is the lighting in your store giving you problems? We can help with that too!

**BEFORE STARTING ANY PROJECT,** please contact Pat Didion at 938-8237 for information on rebates and type of materials to use on your project.

City of  
**Milton-Freewater**

PO Box 6  
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

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 or 938-8274

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Check us out on Facebook - City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon

## Meetings & Events

### Meetings & Closures

#### July 2013

- 1 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 pm. Albee
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY – offices closed
- 8 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 22 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room \***
- 25 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room

#### August 2013

- 5 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 pm. Albee Room
- 12 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 26 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room \***
- 29 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Monahan Room

#### September 2013


- 2 LABOR DAY – City offices closed
  - 3 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room
  - 9 **City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
  - 23 **City Council – 7 p.m. – Albee Room \***
  - 26 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room
- \* TENTATIVE MEETING**

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.

### Events


#### July 2013

- 1 - 12 **Session 2 swim lessons**
- 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 **Milton-Freewater FARMER'S MARKET**
- 7-8 **Session 3 swim lesson sign ups**
- 11, 18, 25 **Pool BBQ Night 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
- 15 - 26 **Session 3 swim lessons**

- 20 – 21  **Carvin' by the Blues**
- 22 – 23 **Session 4 swim lesson sign ups**
- 29 – 8/9 **Session 4 swim lessons**

#### August 2013

- 1, 8, 15, 22 **Pool BBQ Night 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
- 7, 14, 21, 28 **Milton-Freewater FARMER'S MARKET**

- 16 – 18  **The Annual Milton-Freewater MUDDY FROGWATER Country Classic Festival**

#### September 2013

- 2 **Pool Last Day**
- 4, 11, 18, 25 **Milton-Freewater FARMER'S MARKET**

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

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