

Customers of the Quarter

This quarter we are proud to announce THE COUPLE **“BEHIND THE SCENES”** of a lot of good things that go on in Milton-Freewater- **RANDY & SUSAN DOHRMANN!**



Easy to pick out in a crowd – they are the couple that always has smiles on their faces while volunteering limitless hours for the enjoyment and betterment of our community. Referenced by City staff as the **“PERFECT CHOICE”** for this recognition for reasons that we cannot even begin to list but will share a few...

Both Randy and Susan are actively involved in the community from serving on civic groups to their own individual efforts to keeping our town clean and polishing our fine community gems. Spending countless hours behind the scenes they are driving forces behind instituting and keeping the Christmas Magic events going for both the Thursday South Main and Friday North Main Christmas Magic events to give emphasis and exposure to both areas of town – A GREAT SUCCESS! Susan works on the Administrative Professionals luncheon to recognize and honor our front line workers in the community while you can be guaranteed a sighting of Randy mowing the lawn, tending to leaves or other maintenance duties at the First Christian Church on South Main Street – where they are both very actively involved. They are very organized and efficient and put on the community clean up events picking up garbage and trash tirelessly – because they want to. Serving as the Community Development Partnership Secretary true community care is recurrently echoed. A Chamber Ambassador charged with helping welcome and support local businesses to promote the vitality of our community and a driving force behind events such as the Muddy Frogwater Festival, Carvin By the Blues, multi-term servant on the City Parks and Recreation Committee and so many more that we would run out of space in this newsletter- No kidding!

It is because of citizens like the Dohrmanns that Milton-Freewater is a great place to grow up, raise a family and retire in as home! Thank you Randy and Susan and keep up the good work with keeping Milton-Freewater near and dear to your hearts. We appreciate you both very much!

Budget Me\$\$age from City Manager Linda Hall



The City of Milton-Freewater operates financially on a “fiscal year”, which means that our new “budget year” began July 1st, and will run through June 30th.

The process for putting together the City’s budget is rather long and complex, which is not necessarily surprising, considering it is over a \$32 million budget incorporating four major utilities, four major recreational facilities, two public safety service departments and several other service departments. It is extremely unusual for a city our size to have the range of services and physical assets that we do. We own our own electric utility, (which is the oldest municipal electric utility in the State of Oregon!), water utility, solid waste company, sewer service, 18-hole golf course, aquatic center, 45-acre parks system, public transportation systems (bus and taxi), 9-1-1 emergency dispatch center, and municipal court, to name just a few!

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Many cities our small size (less than 10,000 population) have elected to privatize or contract with outside agencies for many of these services. Fire and police protection, emergency dispatch services and solid waste collection are examples of services that many small cities no longer directly offer to their citizens.

In Milton-Freewater, our Council believes it is important to be able to directly control and manage as many services for our citizens as possible so we can control the quality and rates for our customers.

But this “high road” philosophy and goal means that our budget is bigger and more complex than is usual for a city our size. But the Council and City staff are committed to this goal and believe it is the right choice for our citizens.

We begin this process in December when the Finance Director issues budget worksheets and financial balance sheets to all Department Heads. Department Heads then have approximately two months to estimate what their current year budgets will expend and and receive in revenues for the remainder of the year, and what they believe they will be spending and receiving in the coming fiscal year following that. That means that Department Heads are looking 18 months into the future and doing their best to predict what events will occur to what effect on each of their departments. This is actually very challenging to do. Think of your own personal home budgets and how many times things happen that we did not foresee that adversely affect our budgets--- car repairs, hospital bills, or the loss of a job. So in addition to being experts in their individual fields of service (electric, fire, police, etc.) our departments also have to be economists and crystal ball readers as well!

After Department Heads finish developing their “preliminary” budgets, they turn them into the Finance Director whose tough job it is to input all the individual budgets into one overall City budget and then (tougher still!) balance that budget so that our expenditures do not exceed our revenues. (Did I mention that in addition to being an economist and financial analyst, our Finance Director has to be a magician as well?!)

It goes without saying that cuts have to be made, and we do our best to make those decisions with the Council’s priorities in mind with our best to serve our residents.

Once we have the budget balanced, it is turned over to a citizens review committee who pore over each expenditure and estimate. They then meet publicly to reveal their findings and ask additional questions that they have. During this public meeting, opportunity is also given to all citizens to ask questions and share any concerns they may have.

After this public review process, the budget is taken to the City Council in another open public meeting for further review and consideration of final approval. All this process takes about six to seven months to complete.

Here in Milton-Freewater we are proud to bring you a budget that is balanced, fiscally conservative without cutting public services, and maintains some of the lowest utility and tax rates in the nation.

We work hard to be transparent and accountable to our citizens, so our budget is posted to our website and readily available to the public by request at City Hall or in our Library. Questions may be directed to me, Linda Hall at linda.hall@milton-freewater-or.gov or (541) 938-8242.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Cool Off!

Keep your home cooler this summer by closing curtains and windows in the morning and then start your air conditioner BEFORE your home gets hot. This allows the system to cycle on and off instead of running constantly. Use fans (ceiling, floor & table top) to help move air around.

Moving air feels cooler than still air!

If you are in the market of upgrading or even installing a new cooling system please contact the Energy Conservation office at (541) 938-8237 to see if rebates may be available for a new system before you commit to the purchase of one.

FARE FREE SUMMER!

Yes, FREE!

The Milton-Freewater bus is hosting a FARE-FREE summer from May 26th thru September 7th with three trips daily (Monday- Friday) stopping in Milton-Freewater, College Place and Walla Walla.



Check out the schedule online at www.mfcity.com and click on “Public Transportation” in the left bar. Join the fun in the region as it’s a FARE FREE summer all around us this year!!! With the City, Valley Transit and Kayak Transit all fare free, you can make connections to two airports (Walla Walla & Pendleton) as well as Greyhound in Pendleton with inter-city stops within the region from Baker City & LaGrande, Pendleton to Walla Walla. Although not fare-free, you can still make connections to Tri-Cities by hopping aboard the Grape-Line taking you to the Pasco Airport, AMTRAK and Greyhound in Pasco, Washington. Airport travel can take you anywhere in the world. Check out Google Transit to get an itinerary from your home and back just by going to www.google.org/transit.

OH NO! WHO LET THE DOG OUT? Please take responsibility for your dogs!

On occasion dogs get loose, we understand that. In order to help us help you reunite with your canine companion the city requires residents (Municipal Code 8-5-1) to license all dogs over six months of age annually (valid January 1 – December 31) through the Police Department. License tags help us identify your animal in the case they do go missing or “at large” making it more likely that you will be reunited with your companion.

Good News! From now through August 1st we are waiving the \$10 late licensing fee. Licensing is easy and a small price to pay in comparison to a citation (\$278.00 – Municipal Code 8-5-4) or an impound fee if your dog is found unlicensed and at large. Applications are available through the police department and online at www.mfcity.com under Police Department. Please complete the application, bring proof of current vaccinations (including rabies from a veterinarian) and \$35 for unaltered dogs and \$10 for altered dogs to the Police Department and the license tag(s) will be issued at that time. Questions can be directed to our Code Enforcement Officer, Sharame Marlatt at 541-938-8263.

Please remember as a responsible pet owner you are required to keep your dogs confined to your own premises at all times. Dogs running at large are considered a public nuisance (Municipal Code 8-5-3) and you may be subject to a citation in the amount of \$190.00. For further city code information visit us online at www.mfcity.com and click on the link “city code”.

JUMP IN! MAKE A SPLASH! COOL OFF!

Joe Humbert Family Aquatic Center 938-9166

Open seven days per week!

General Swim Hours:

Session 1- 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. & Session 2- 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For \$5.00 or less you can spend the entire day at the pool! Daily youth (17 & under) daily admission is \$3.50 and adults (18 & over) are \$5.00. Admission is valid for both sessions so don't forget to ask for your stamp upon exiting from session 1.

Swim Lessons

Session 2 sign up 6/29-7/5 for lessons 7/6-7/17

Session 3 sign up 7/13-7/19 for lessons 7/20-7/31

Session 4 sign up 7/27-8/2 for lessons 8/3-8/14



Water Aerobics

Daily through 8/14 offered at 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Cost: \$2.50 per session or \$60 for the season.

We also offer private rentals, season passes and much more!

YOUR PUBLIC LIBRARY We aren't just about books!

Come check out our new childrens area, teen room and much more!

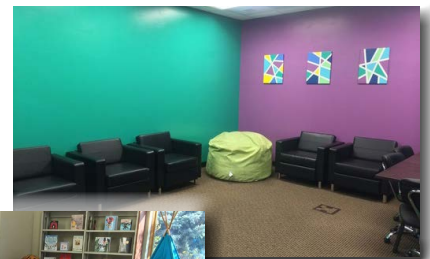


Summer reading is underway offering school age events on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and pre-school storey time on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. **Every Story Has a Hero** is the theme this year. Let your little hero be part of our story! Each week the program is tailored to focus on our Heros such as police officers, firefighters, military service members & more!

Our new teen room (Funded by Eurus Grant of \$5,840) features comfortable seating, Legos, a Playstation 4 and many games. The teen room is open to children 11-18.

Not only can you use our new public computers (Funded by M-F Area Foundation = \$10,460) and check out books or movies you can also download eBooks, audiobooks, and videos. Check out our updated web page at mfcity.com.

Teen Room



Childrens Area

BURN BAN IN EFFECT. ABSOLUTELY NO BURNING!

HOLIDAY CLOSURES



Independence Day - July 4th

City offices will be closed Friday, July 3rd. Refuse and recycling for Friday route will be on Monday, July 6th. Pool- OPEN regular hours

Labor Day - September 7th

City offices will be closed Monday, September 7th. Refuse and recycling for Monday route will be on Tuesday, September 8th.

City of Milton-Freewater



Aquatic Center	(541) 938-9166
City Manager	(541) 938-8242
City Recorder	(541) 938-8233
Code Enforcement	(541) 938-8263
Community Development	(541) 938-8236
Conservation	(541) 938-8237
Electric Dept.	(541) 938-8232 or 8231
Engineering	(541) 938-8238
Finance Dept.	(541) 938-5531
Fire Business	(541) 938-8256
Golf Course	(541) 938-7284
Human Resources	(541) 938-8243
Library	(541) 938-8247
Municipal Court	(541) 938-8203
Planning & Zoning	(541) 938-8234 or 8235
Police Business	(541) 938-5511
Public Works	(541) 938-8270, 8272 or 8274

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Meetings & Events

City Council - 7 p.m. - Albee Room

Planning Commission - 7 p.m. - Albee Room

Library Board - 7 p.m. - Albee Room

July

13, 27*

7

30

August

10, 24*

3

27

September

14, 28*

8

24

* indicates tentative meeting date

Holidays (date observed, offices closed)

3

7

Pool BBQ Nights- Thursday's

2, 9, 16, 23, 30

6, 13, 20, 27

Golf Tournaments

11, 18

1, 16

12

Firefighters Breakfast

4th

Library

Summer Reading

4th- Reptile Man 4:30
p.m. @ Community Bldg

City Bus- Fare Free summer

1-31

1-31

Last day 9/7

Muddy Frogwater Festival

14-16

Farmers Market

Every Wednesday @ Orchard Park- 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.