

Milton-Freewater City News

Winter 2015

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

City of Milton-Freewater Governing Body

Lewis S. Key Mayor
Steve Irving At Large, Position 2
Edwin E. Chesnut At Large, Position 3



Linda Hall, City Manager

Orrin Lyon
Bradley J. Humbert
Jeff Anliker

Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3

Customer of the Quarter

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

John is described by our Finance team as being a "pleasure to deal with thanks to that smile on his face and happy attitude!" Another team member shared "If he has to wait in line or is the only person at the counter he is always pleasant and has positive things to say about our city and the services he receives."

For those that are unaware – our Finance Department team serves as our FRONT LINE for city services ranging from utility billing and payments to court business by enforcing policy, collecting payment and much more. SMILES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME & APPRECIATED!

Thank you John for brightening the day of our Finance Department by your smile, patience and positively kind attitude!

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

*"Most smiles are
started
by another
smile."*

~Author Unknown

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Weather Extremes & Your Electric Service

A message from the Electric Department -

We are fortunate to have a well maintained electrical system that is very reliable resulting in most power outages being rather short in duration. Even with the most reliable system we are not able to guarantee that the power will always be on. **It is your responsibility to protect your home electrical system.**

So you ask – "What can I do to protect my appliances, entertainment systems and computers from outages or transient fault currents that can wreak havoc on your equipment and our power lines?"

1. Shut off all sensitive electrical equipment during the power outage and leave a couple of lights on around the house so you will know when the power is back on. Wait at least 15 minutes after the power is back on before starting your equipment back up. Intermittent power outages can cause problems with many electronics, please be patient and make sure the electrical system seems to be back to normal operation.

2. We recommend that customers purchase Advanced Power Strip, surge Suppressors or Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) equipment and plug in your sensitive electronic equipment (TV, DVD, computers, and consider installing good quality surge suppressors on washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers and refrigerators if they have microprocessor control panels on them) to it. While we do not recommend any particular brand of advanced power strip, surge suppressor or UPS, the Bonneville Power Administration does have certain criteria for advanced power strip equipment that meets the level of protection as well as energy savings that may qualify for a \$20 rebate through the City of Milton-Freewater.

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Weather Extremes & Your Electric Service - Continued from Page 1

A qualified advanced power strip must meet the following qualifications:

- ✓ Infrared remote sensing
- ✓ Consume less than 1W of energy
- ✓ One-year warranty and any length warranty for connected devices
- ✓ Surge protection to 740 joules
- ✓ UL1449 listed
- ✓ Rated for 15 amps
- ✓ Resettable circuit breaker

3. If you have or plan to purchase a generator for use during power outages, there are certain steps you must follow to ensure safe operation in your house and to protect the linemen working on the power outage from being injured by your generator.

- Turn off the 'Main Breaker' in your electrical panel to isolate your house from the rest of the electrical system.
- Use an extension cord rated for the electrical output of the generator.
- Do not turn on more electrical equipment than the generator can provide service for.
- Notify the Electric Department that you have a generator for use in power outages.

Remember, even by taking every precaution to protect your electronic equipment, there is no guarantee that damage may not happen. ■



What if saving for your child's education was as simple as checking out a library book?

The Milton-Freewater Public Library has partnered with the Ready to Learn Coalition which provides a special library card for children under 6. When the card is used a small donation is made to an Oregon College Savings plan in their name for each book they check out and each program (like story time or summer reading) they attend.

The years before a child enters kindergarten are crucial for their development and future success. By participating in this program you can help your child by giving them the learning opportunities they need.

Signup is easy! You can sign your child up for this program at the library. Each child that signs up will receive a free book bag!

Come join us at the library every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. for our Story Time and craft hour!

Story time is a great way for children to interact with other children while having fun at the library. Children build their social skills while they listen to stories, sing songs, and make crafts to take home. All children are welcome to this free program.

Library Hours: Monday through Wednesday: 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Do you have a Demand Response Unit (DRU) in your home?

If so –

During the winter, start your heat by no later than 6 a.m. This will help keep your home comfortable when the DRU operates. In the summer, start your air conditioning no later than 1 p.m. for the same reason.

ENERGY SAVING TIP: Programmable setback thermostats are a great way to save energy. They allow you to lower the heating set point automatically while your home or business is unoccupied and warmed up when you arrive.

Attention

Business Owners/Operators!!!

Our Commercial Lighting Program is still operating.

LED tube lamps have dropped in price and can be a great option to replace your old flickering fluorescent lamps. They give great light output and are very energy efficient.

We can also help with replacing your old **ELECTRIC** heating system or by adding insulation to your building.

For more information contact the Conservation Office at 541-938-8237.



City Electric Department Journeymen Linemen – pictured as follows: Top left – Rick Duede & Rich Gannon. Top right – Scott Graff. Bottom left- Shannon Brownie.

Conservation

Corner

Did you know?

The very first 9-1-1 system in Oregon was established in March 1971 right here in Milton-Freewater! Our communications center is staffed with six specialists that provide **ALL DAY, EVERY DAY** police, ambulance and fire dispatch services to residents within the city limits as well as ambulance and fire dispatch services to our citizens outside city limits.

In 2013 we received 2,784 9-1-1 emergency calls. So far (through 12/8/14) in 2014 we have already taken 2,953 calls!

CHRISTMAS TREE REMOVAL

City residents may have their Christmas trees removed at no charge January 5th - 9th. Anything put out after these dates will be subject to fees. Please do not put, or attempt to put your tree in your garbage can.

Reminder - burn barrels are prohibited at all times within the city limits.

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 or 8274.

REMINDERS

Leaf Collection 2014 is OVER – Please do not put leaves out on the streets or you will be subject to fees. If you have leaves please bag them and put them in your trash can.

Dog License – Purchase by February 28 to avoid an additional \$10 fee. Unaltered dogs are \$35 per year and altered dogs are \$10 per year.

Business License - All businesses operating in the city need a city-issued business license. The fee is \$35.00 and is due January 1 of each year.

Change in Contact Information?

Let us know if you have a contact change such as phone number or mailing address.

Burning? Burn barrels are prohibited in the city limits. If you are burning please call the police department for a burn permit.

Digging?

Call 8-1-1 for locates BEFORE you dig. It is the law and it is FREE!

PLEASE keep meters accessible and clear.

Electric and water meters must be clear from debris and accessible at all times to avoid added fees.

Avoid purchasing a replacement garbage can! NO ASHES OR HOT MATERIALS ALLOWED IN TRASH CANS.



Pictured above: Emergency Communications Specialist Debra Stack

Pictured left: Emergency Communications Specialist Angie McColley

Photos taken by: Luz Garcia, Lead ECS

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 our linemen and the City of Milton-Freewater 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

DEADLINE: April 10, 2015 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 click on the News and Announcements link.

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Schedule

January 2015

New Year's Day

Observed: Thursday, January 1st
Collection Day: Friday, January 2nd



Martin Luther King Day

Observed: Monday, January 19th
Collection Day: Tuesday, January 20th

February 2015

President's Day

Observed: Monday, February 16th
Collection Day: Tuesday, February 17th

Please have containers out by 6 a.m. on your collection day.

Please do not bag recyclables – they look like trash & will not be picked up.

Recycling Questions: 541-938-5658 - Refuse Questions: 541-938-8270

THANK YOU

HOGS WILD 4-H CLUB!

Once again your volunteer efforts to change out light bulbs in the snowflake light decorations have helped light up and brighten up our town.

City of
Milton-Freewater

City Manager	938-8242
City Recorder	938-8233
Community Development	938-8236
Conservation	938-8237
Electric Department	938-8232 or 938-8231
Engineering	938-8238 or 938-8230
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

Visit us online at www.mfcity.com

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 5
MILTON-FREEWATER, OR

Meetings & Closures

January 2015

- 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY – offices closed
- 5 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- **12 City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – offices closed
- **26 City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room ***
- 29 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m.

February 2015

- 2 Planning Commission Meeting – 7 pm. Albee Room
- **9 City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room**
- 16 PRESIDENT'S DAY – offices closed
- **23 City Council Meeting – 7 p.m. – Albee Room ***
- 26 Library Board Meeting – 7 p.m.*

March 2015

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

* 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.

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

City Manager: Linda Hall Publisher/Editor: Krista Gannon

Thank you staff members Brian Steadman, Jim Olsen & Mike Bump for submitting the pictures used on page 1.