



# City of Milton-Freewater 2020 Summer Newsletter

PO Box 6 - 722 S. Main Street, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

www.mfcity.com

Photo credit: Tatia Oliver



## Meet your new Ward 1

## City Councilor : John Lyon

John Lyon was appointed to fill the Ward 1 Council seat of his father, Orrin Lyon (who tragically passed away in August of 2019) at the Council meeting of March 9, 2020.

Councilor Lyon is a native of our city and graduated from Mac-Hi in 1988. He is employed by Walla Walla County where he works as a mechanic. He enjoys the outdoors and is very active with motorcycles and can repair or improve just about anything with a motor. John was honored to be appointed to serve out his father's term on the Council—which runs through 2022. It is obvious that he takes the role quite seriously and has already hit the ground running with his new position.

That should not surprise us however, as it seems that serving on the Milton Freewater City Council runs in the DNA of the Lyon family. There has been a "Lyon" serving on our Council almost continuously since 1964. Mel Lyon, brother of Orrin and uncle to John, began serving on the Council in 1964 and served until his death in 2001. Orrin Lyon was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of his brother on the Council. He told his family that he would just fill out that one term, but yet discovered he had a great talent for the role and continued to serve until his death in 2019. And now the tradition continues with the appointment of Orrin's son, John.

(Our thanks to John's daughter Noel Shannon who helped "convince" her Dad to take this on!)

Councilor Lyon is quoted as saying "To be a success, one cannot limit oneself. I am willing to devote the necessary time and effort to successfully represent the citizens of Ward 1 and the City."

### THANK YOU TO CDP!

We want to thank the Community Development Partnership (CDP) for their generous annual donation of the gorgeous hanging flower pots that surround City Hall, the Library and Public Works offices. CDP has been sponsoring these stunningly beautiful baskets made by Victorian Gardens for several years now as a public service project. CDP is a non-profit organization made up of Milton Freewater business owners and civic leaders. The group has been assisting with public improvement projects in our community since the 1980's.

Current CDP officers are President Sam Tucker, Vice President John Thunell, Secretary Susan Dohrmann and Treasurer Carol Irving. **THANK YOU!!**



### Conservation Corner



Summer is here! Here are some reminders on keeping your house or business cool and help lower your utility bill.

Have your AC unit serviced and cleaned NOW and keep the filter CLEAN (Yes, even window AC units have filters in them)! Start your AC unit BEFORE your house/business gets hot. This allows the AC unit to work less (cycle off and on) and this actually saves energy. Keep windows and doors closed while the AC is on. Open windows at night and close them early in the morning. Keep window shades/blinds closed on the 'sun' side of the house during the day.

Use fans to circulate air in the house. If you have a ceiling fan, the fan 'should' be blowing air down when using the AC. You may(?) be able to raise your AC thermostat setting up to 4 degrees. Try to run dishwasher, clothes washer/dryer during the early morning or evening hours if possible (reduces heat inside the home).

If you still use incandescent light bulbs, turn them off when not needed (they generate a lot of heat) or switch to LED bulbs.

Close doors to rooms not being used.

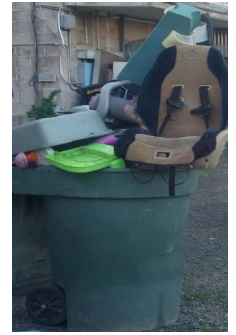
The City has rebates available to homeowners and business owners for new heat pumps, windows and insulation. We also have rebate programs for other measures in the Industrial or Agricultural sectors as well.

Please contact the Conservation Office at 541-938-8237 **BEFORE** starting any projects or if you have questions. We can help direct you to the products that work best in our climate.

Pat Didion, Milton-Freewater City Light & Power

## AVOID EXTRA GARBAGE FEES

If you have extra waste **PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS:** As part of your City garbage service, you are issued a container for automated collection once per week for a monthly charge of \$14.65. Collection times vary and are not scheduled on your garbage day, so be sure your container is placed for pickup by 6 a.m. or the night before. If you need more service give us a call. We can work with you to find your best option based on your waste needs.



Overfilling your garbage can results in the can to not be dumped which means you will be charged an off-route fee of \$17.50 when we come back, after you have unloaded the overflow or if we are able to dump it, an overload fee of \$17.50. Either way, this is much more expensive than increasing your service to the level your household demands. 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 \$2.85.

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, etc.

**FILLING YOUR CAN** - In addition to not overfilling your container, please bag and tie 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.

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 whenever possible. Remember recycling has three (3) components - reduce, reuse and recycle! For more information on recycling visit our recycling page on the website at [www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com) under Public Works.



## The Electric Department Purchases Drone

We're excited to announce the addition of new cost saving equipment to our tool box. In May the Electric Department purchased a DJI Mavic 2 drone. The drone is expected to save thousands of dollars in labor and improve public safety, service reliability, and working conditions. Safety and reliability are our top priorities. Damage or failure of high voltage equipment could present a serious hazard to the public, increase fire risk, or leave hundreds of people without power. Ensuring our infrastructure is in good condition is critical.

The city owns and maintains over four thousand power poles, 125 miles of overhead powerlines, and nearly 2100 pole mounted transformers throughout our service territory. We conduct regular inspections of every pole and power line. In the past, this meant sending a small crew to each pole and spending as few as five minutes inspecting with binoculars from the ground or up to fifteen minutes going up in a bucket truck for a more thorough inspection. When inspecting from the ground it's easy to miss small problems. Sending a person up in a bucket truck becomes very expensive when done thousands of times. Inspection with a drone can be done by one person in about two minutes and provides the same level of detail a small crew with a bucket truck can provide in fifteen minutes. Many people hear the word "Drone" and immediately think surveillance or invasion of privacy. We want to ensure customers our drone is operated exclusively by FAA Licensed Electric Department staff for inspecting utility equipment. It will not be used for monitoring or recording of any private property, customer activities, or collect any personal information. Your privacy is very important to us.

You may see us operating our drone throughout the community. Don't be alarmed. We're there to ensure the safe and reliable operation of your electric service and the efficient use of your hard earned tax dollars.



# DOG LAWS AND CITIZEN SAFETY

Most everyone who owns a cat or dog loves them like a family member. These furry creatures can add to and enhance just about anyone's life who needs it. Big or small, dogs and cats are essentially like four legged counterparts for many of us. Speaking of ownership of dogs (cats are another topic altogether), with ownership comes inherent responsibility. There is certainly a moral obligation to care for our fuzzy friends, and also, a societal, legal duty to obey the laws associated with our dogs. Now and then, we all need a reminder of the dos and don'ts of dog ownership. Here goes.

First of all, if you live within the city limits of Milton-Freewater, the law requires you to license your adult age dogs. This also means keeping current on your dog's rabies vaccination. This requirement is minimal, costs very little, and creates a record that can help the police department identify your dog if it becomes lost, or worse yet, stolen. Licensing is a small but important step toward responsible dog ownership.

Raising dogs for profit (or just to have a bunch of dogs, period) is unlawful in Milton-Freewater. By law, you are only allowed to have three (3) dogs per residential property, maximum. It is therefore suggested that you have your dog(s) spayed or neutered. This is not a law or legal requirement, but spaying or neutering is a way to prevent unexpected dogs from coming into the world, and is a component of responsible and humane dog ownership. Also, dogs that are not spayed or neutered cost more to license than dogs that have been cared for in this way.

This is a BIG part of responsible dog ownership: dogs must be kept on the owner's own property, unless being taken for a walk, at which time, dog(s) must be on a leash. There are no dog parks here in Milton-Freewater, so the only place a dog may legally roam free off a leash is on its owner's property. Similarly, if a dog is traveling with its owner, it need not be leashed while inside a vehicle. Along these lines, if we are walking our dog, and it does its bathroom duty on another's property, or on public property, you are REQUIRED to clean up the mess!

So far, as dog owners, we see four legal requirements we must abide by: 1. Adult dogs must be licensed through the City; 2. We dog owners, cannot have more than three (3) dogs living on our property; 3. We must keep our dogs on our own property at all times, or, on a leash if off our property on a walk; 4. There is a legal requirement that we clean up our dogs messes if left on another's private property, or on public city property. The above are the bare minimum components of lawful, responsible dog ownership, not just here in Milton-Freewater, but most generally everywhere. What about more serious situations regarding dog ownership? For instance, if a dog bites someone. What then?

Quite often when a dog attacks or bites a person, or another animal, it happens after the dog leaves its owner's property, or, the owner has for some reason lost control of the dog. Dog bite incidents are very serious. The victim is sometimes physically injured and emotionally traumatized, and may even need medical attention. What happens then? Such incidents where a dog attacks a person or another animal need to be reported to the Milton-Freewater Code Enforcement Officer, or, the police department if the enforcement officer is not on duty. It is especially important to report a dog bite if a person's skin is broken because of the attack, or if another animal is injured or killed by the attack. The victim hopefully will be able to describe the dog, and maybe even tell us where the dog lives. The Code Enforcement Officer can then hopefully start the appropriate investigation into the situation, to make sure the offending dog is current on its rabies vaccinations.

Every dog bite or attack should be reported---but that does not mean that in every case the offending dog will be seized and euthanized. Every incident is evaluated on a case by case basis, and takes into account the circumstances involving the recent attack, and comparing this to the history the police department has on the offending dog, if any. The history is important in evaluating these cases, which is why it is important that every dog bite be reported immediately, or as soon as practical for the victim.

While not every dog bite case will merit euthanizing the offending dog, the owner will possibly receive (if the investigation indicates this necessity) non-criminal citations for offenses such as dog at large, or perhaps failing to license a dog. That is the minimal start of the investigation into these matters. In extreme cases where injury has occurred to a person or another animal, and there is a documented history with the offending dog, the possibility of requiring euthanization of the offending dog does exist.

If euthanization is a possibility, a dog owner is given every possible benefit of due process under city and state law, which may ultimately include a hearing in front of our Municipal Court Judge regarding the matter. These are serious situations, and the need for a lawful process is accounted for under Milton-Freewater City Code. Euthanization is the final step of a legal process followed when resolving these incidents, and is only taken in the more extreme and dangerous cases.

The above said, there is nothing more important than the safety of our citizens here in Milton-Freewater, which is why there is a due process legal mechanism in place to address dangerous or vicious dogs who inflict fear and physical injury to people or other animals. No one wants to take the life of another's beloved dog. That is why it is so important that ALL dog owners simply follow the lawful rules set forth at the beginning of this article: 1. License; 2. Keep it to three or fewer dogs on your property; 3. Keep your dog(s) on your own property, or on a leash if you're out and about.

If all dog owners would do the above, our town would be safer, and we'd have a lot more happy dog owners, as well as more citizens who feel safe while out and about.

Article by Chief of Police, Doug Boedigheimer

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

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97862

**City Council**  
Lewis S. Key, Mayor  
John 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, (*Council  
President*) At Large/Position 3  
  
**City Manager**  
Linda Hall

## Meetings and Closures

### July 2020

- 3rd—July 4th Holiday—Observed—City Offices Closed
- 6th—Planning Commission Meeting—7pm—Albee Room— City Library\*
- 13th—City Council Meeting—7pm—Albee Room—City Library\*

### August 2020

- 3rd—Planning Commission Meeting—7 pm—Albee Room— City Library\*
- 10th—City Council Meeting—7 pm—Albee Room—City Library\*

### September 2020

- 7th—Labor Day Holiday—Observed—City Offices Closed
  - 8th—Planning Commission Meeting—7 pm—Albee Room— City Library\*
  - 14th—City Council Meeting—7 pm—Albee Room—City Library\*
- \* meetings may be held virtually over Zoom (to be determined)

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 schedule at [www.mfcity.com](http://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 meetings.

Due to ever changing COVID-19 restrictions, please check the city website:  
[www.mfcity.com](http://www.mfcity.com) or call before the meeting date to verify any venue or date changes.