

CITY NEWS

Summer 2012

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

CUSTOMER OF THE QUARTER

In a time where volunteerism is needed more and more due to available funding being less and less our community is fortunate to be home to some dedicated citizens. We are proud to recognize one in particular. Someone who has raised a family here, worked here teaching and guiding our youth and has called Milton-Freewater home since 1966. We are pleased to announce **Nancy Doherty** as our Summer 2012 customer of the quarter.

With a passion for history and many years teaching fourth grade at Freewater Elementary School which involved taking thousands of fourth graders on the four-day field trip to learn about the Oregon Trail, Nancy continues to have a passion for history as well as preserving Milton-Freewater's historical locations.

Each year for the past over 20 years, she finds a volunteer to sit with her to paint each and every letter by hand on the wooden Oregon Trail sign in the front lawn of City Hall, which she authored. Nancy also adopted the Pioneer Cemetery in the County above SW 8th Avenue for the past 20 years plus. Each year she heads up work crews to tend to the grounds from planting native fescue grasses (which has eliminated the once abundant weeds), mowing (using a new riding mower funded by a raffle put on by our local Elks Club) and most importantly showing appreciation to the final resting place for some of our first citizens. Nancy is a great leader who gets others involved in giving back to our community. Her goal is "To get our children involved again". This next year Nancy hopes to have community work parties in April and May. According to Nancy the Oregon Trail sign; the Pioneer Cemetery sign; and the granite marker honoring when Ezra Meeker came to Milton in 1910 to mark the sight where the Oregon Trail ran through Milton-Freewater (in the front lawn at 139 S. Main St) were all funded by local junior high students when they performed "Lip Synch" for two years. She is a hardworking citizen that has a way of setting her heart on something, in turn to get it done putting everything she has into it with a smile to boot! Nancy also volunteers at many other events throughout our community. She is a board member for the Frazier Farmstead Museum who has sought several grants and continues to seek funding assistance to aide in saving our local history. She is a woman that rolls up her sleeves and isn't afraid to get her hands dirty in order to get the job done! We are so grateful to have you in our community Nancy! **Congratulations on being our Summer 2012 Customer of the quarter and keep up the great work, we appreciate all you do!**



Update from City Manager Linda Hall

FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET UPDATE

On June 11th, our City Council adopted the budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1st. The budget was recommended in its entirety from our citizen Budget Advisory Committee with no changes or amendments.

The budget total is \$24,404,338---a DECREASE of \$1,797,495 over last year's budget!

But, the most important highlight of the new budget is this: NO UTILITY RATE INCREASES are included in the budget!

Our Council and city staff works very hard to be the most efficient government agency we can be in order to avoid raising rates to our loyal citizens.

In recent years, this has become more and more of a challenge. Costs that we cannot control plague us: electric power purchase increases, fuel increases, new fees from the state and federal government, increases in the cost of our materials and supplies---and many more.

To make matters worse---our revenue streams are dwindling. Many have been seized by a financially ailing State government, and some are a result of changing trends in our society. Examples include a) over \$24,000 in annual court revenues are now required to be turned over to the State of Oregon, b) franchise fees for cable television and traditional phone service are plummeting as satellite and cellular phone technology takes its place, and c) we are seeing an alarming increase in the number of foreclosures on homes in our city, which negatively affect our tax revenues as well as utility sales. *--- continued on page 2*



Manager Linda Hall



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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Independence Day

07.04.12

Observed:

Wednesday, July 4th
City Offices Closed

Refuse & Recycling

Pick Up Day:

Thursday, July 5th

Pool – OPEN regular hours

Labor Day

09.03.12

Observed:

Monday, September 3rd

City Offices Closed

Refuse & Recycling

Pick Up Day: Tuesday, September 4th

Pool – CLOSED

CONSERVATION CORNER

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY CITY LIGHT & POWER

FREE energy audits and FREE 'No Obligation' bids (by our approved contractors)

REBATES OFFERED:

- Insulation: \$0.50/square foot
(rebate will not exceed 50% of total project cost)
- Windows: \$3.00/square foot
- Heat Pumps: \$500.00 to \$1,400.00
- Water Heaters: \$50.00
- Refrigerators: \$15.00
- Clothes Washers: \$30.000 to \$70.00

There are specifications for all measures to qualify for rebates. **Please contact Pat Didion at 938-8237 for information.**

TREE TRIMMING STARTING SOON!

Vision clearance tree trimming will be starting soon. If you do not want us to trim your bushes and trees please trim them to where they are 12 inches (12") minimum distance behind curbs and sidewalks as well as having a minimum 10 foot (10') height clearance.



(Above) Richard Jolly, Journeyman Lineman safety training for pole top rescue.

Update from City Manager Linda Hall

FISCAL YEAR 2013 BUDGET - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

So how are we able to sustain all our city services in light of all these negative trends?

We have taken proactive measures to reduce labor costs, we limit our spending, we regularly maintain our infrastructure with the goal of fixing things while they are small (and less expensive to fix!) rather than waiting until they fail completely, we aggressively seek matching grants for capital improvement projects such as street improvement infrastructure and improvements to public facilities, and we constantly challenge ourselves to do things better.

We carefully plan for 20 to 50 years out into the future so we can hopefully ride out temporary downward trends such as decreases in the housing market or dips in the stock market.

I am happy to report that your city is in strong financial condition. We have \$4,149,045 in reserve funds, with a total cash reserve investment of over \$7,500,000. We have not had to dip into these reserves to balance our annual operating budget, nor do we have to borrow against future tax revenues in order to operate in the black.

We do have challenges ahead of us, and I cannot promise that every year will be free of rate increases such as this year.

But I can assure you of this: Your City Council and I will continue to do our best to earn your trust and continue to operate your local government services as efficiently as possible without sacrificing quality.

Thank you for your support!

Linda Hall, City Manager

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!

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 \$3,000).** 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 Dollars

One Month

Signature

Date

Two Dollars

Six Months

Name & Address (please print)

\$ Dollars

Continuous

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

TIPS TO HELP AVOID EXTRA GARBAGE COLLECTION FEES

As part of your CITY garbage service, you are issued a 90-gallon 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 to place your can on the street on your garbage collection day by 6 a.m. If you miss us and request we come back, an off route charge of \$15.90 may be assessed to your bill. Our truck runs from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, except on holidays. We are here to serve our customers until 4 p.m.



(L) result = not emptied. Fee to go back once shrubs were removed \$15.90 – more than you would pay to add a second can for the entire month!



(R) result = manual overload fee x 2 @ \$15.90 \$31.80 photos by: Emilio Sandoval

Help us to better serve you! Occasionally we have trouble trying to dump trash containers. To ensure you are not assessed additional fees or that your garbage is not skipped over, we kindly ask the following:

CAN PLACEMENT	*Make sure that your container "handle" faces the house and the lid opens toward the street. If not, the driver has to get out and reposition the container. This affects the efficiency and increases chances of injury.	Reposition Fee: \$6.00
	*Keep a minimum three foot (3') area around the container free from objects such as vehicles, buildings, fences, your recycle bin, etc. If your container is too close to an object a reposition charge may be assessed or your container may not be emptied.	Reposition Fee: \$6.00 Off Route Fee: \$15.90
FILLING YOUR CAN	*Make sure that your container is not overfull to where the lid will not close. Overfull containers will spill out onto the street as the truck is dumping the can and may create a safety hazard to our customers and staff.	Overload Fee: \$15.90
	*Spilled waste due to overflow causes the driver to have to stop the route and get out of the truck to clean up spilled waste.	Manual Fee: \$15.90
BAG ALL WASTE	*All waste including lawn trimmings and leaves to avoid the waste from sticking to the bottom of the can as well as helps to control the foul odor associated with garbage and loose trash from blowing all over your neighborhood on windy days.	
MISSING CANS	*Relocate and position your container if it blows away. On occasion we have excessively windy days. If your container blows away it is your responsibility to locate it and return it to your address. We understand that sometimes they blow away and someone else takes it to their property in error. If you have made every effort to recover your container and still can't locate it, give us a call and we can assist you.	Reposition Fee: \$6.00
	*Keep in mind that the container remains the property of the City and is assigned to your address. They are not to be used anywhere else other than the address they are issued to.	
SAFETY	*No burning or hot items should be placed in the can at any time. Damage due to negligence will be borne to the customer. Not only are cans expensive, but we put safety first and foremost.	
OTHER SERVICES	*We offer a variety of additional services for additional waste disposal AS WELL AS TWO COMPLIMENTARY CLEAN UP EVENTS EACH YEAR FOR CURRENTLY ACTIVE CITY REFUSE CUSTOMERS, one in April And one in October.	

Give us a call if you need additional temporary or permanent service. We thank you for your attention to these pointers and for your support in keeping safety and excellent service our #1 priority!

COMMUNITY SECURITY TIPS *from Police Chief Doug Boedigheimer*

Recently the police department has been inundated with cases and calls regarding car/vehicle break-ins. These crimes are occurring under the cover of darkness, so are reported the following day. One thing nearly all of these events share: they were not really "break-ins". A good many, in fact, most of them, are entries into **unlocked vehicles**.

There are two ways of looking at locking parked vehicles: 1. Why do it, they'll just break the window!?!; 2. Always do it, at least it's something of a deterrent.

I agree with #2. Locking a vehicle does serve as a deterrent in many cases. Leaving vehicles unlocked invites or welcomes disaster. I think most of us these days would likely not leave our home standing unlocked--the same thought process and practice should carry over to parked vehicles. The security tip of the month: **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE WHEN IT'S PARKED, and ALWAYS REMOVE THE KEYS.** Even better, **LOCK YOUR VEHICLE AND HAVE A CAR ALARM IN PLACE AND FUNCTIONING.**

An important, often overlooked issue: carrying your **Social Security card** in your purse/wallet. Don't do this unless doing so for a specific errand you're running where you must present it. The Social Security number is one of the best pieces of personal information an identity thief can have to entirely steal your identity. Best to memorize your number and leave the physical card at home in a secure location. Always remember, if a thief has your Social Security number, s/he has your identity.

Burglaries (unlawful entries into homes) have been on the rise as well. A few suggestions: 1. Install exterior lighting around your home--motion activated lighting acts as a very good deterrent; 2. Trim bushes and hedges that are immediately next to your house to two to three feet in height--this gives burglars less area to hide behind; 3. Lock all exterior doors and have deadbolts that extend at least 1/2 to 1 inch into the door frame; 4. Lock all exterior facing windows; 5. Place a strong stick in the slider groove of sliding doors to act as a doorstop; 6. Install a home security system; 7. Install a video system to monitor and record activity around/in your home when activated; 8. Don't leave car keys on a key rack that readily identifies what vehicle the key belongs to, this makes it easier for a burglar to also readily steal a car; 9. Keep an eye out for your neighbor, and report suspicious activity when it's occurring.

Do these things and you can help decrease your chance of being burglarized.

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

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

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/Public Transportation	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, 938.8274 or 938.8276

Visit us online at www.mfcity.com

MEETINGS & EVENTS

July

- 1 Swim Lesson Sign Ups – Session 3 @ pool
- 2 **Planning Commission** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 4  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 4 **Independence Day Holiday** - Pool Open
- 5 Pool BBQ Night – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 9 **City Council** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 9-20 Swim Lessons – Session 3 @ pool
- 11  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 12 Pool BBQ Night – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 14-15 Swim Lesson Sign Ups – Session 4 @ pool
- 18  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 19 Pool BBQ Night – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 21-22  **Logs to Frogs**
- 23 **City Council** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 23 – 8/3 Swim Lessons - Session 4 @ pool
- 25  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 26 Pool BBQ Night – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 31 **Library Board** – 7 p.m. Albee Room

August

- 1  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 2 Pool BBQ Night – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 6 **Planning Commission** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 7 **Recreation Committee** – 5 p.m. Monahan Room
- 8  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 9 Pool BBQ Night – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 13 **City Council** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 15  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 17-19 
- 19 Pool Last Day for 2012
- 22  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 27 **City Council** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 28 **Library Board** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 29  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park

September

- 3 **Labor Day Holiday**
- 4 **Planning Commission** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 5  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 10 **City Council** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 12  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 19  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park
- 24 **City Council** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 25 **Library Board** – 7 p.m. Albee Room
- 26  **FARMER'S MARKET** – 4-7 p.m. Orchard Park

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall 541-938-5531, or write 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.
 Next Issue: October 1st