



CITY NEWS

Spring 2011
Issue VIII

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

CUSTOMER OF THE QUARTER

By: Krista Sheridan

In recognition of a loyal library patron we are hereby recognizing Carlton Green as the Customer of the Quarter!

Congratulations Carlton! Your kind smile, words and helpfulness reminds us daily of what a pleasure it is to be of service to you at Your Public Library!



Staff at the library recognizes Carlton as not only a patron, but say he is like a part of the library team. Staff refers to Mr. Green's smile and kind words as something they look forward to seeing. They shared that he is always helpful and goes above and beyond to look after his public library.

If he is upstairs in the evening he assists staff in "doing the rounds" to ensure all patrons are out of the library at closing time. Carlton can also be found at the library on the weekends reading to his children.

We are proud to be of service to you and your family! Thank you Carlton!

Pictured above (L to R): Associate, Lili Schmidt; Customer of the Quarter, Carlton Green; and Associate, Sandy Nelson. Picture taken by Associate, Donna Sheridan.

"He's always got a smile on his face and kind words to say."



TRANSPORTATION/PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

MANY CITIZENS ARE ASKING -

By: Krista Sheridan

When we are going to begin the construction of \$3 million dollars of street and pedestrian improvements?

We are currently 90% complete with the design engineering of the projects with Anderson-Perry & Associates.

Our highest priority projects at this point in time are College Street Sidewalk and Key Boulevard. The bid opening date for both of these projects is planned for April 14th.

South Main Street improvement project is planned to have bids opened on April 21st.

Mill Street widening bids are planned to be opened on April 28th. Mill Street is the lowest priority project and could be split into north and south improvements, if needed based on funding remaining.

The College Street Sidewalk bid award is planned to be brought before the Council and recommended for award at their regular City Council meeting on April 25, 2011. The three other projects are targeted to be brought before Council and recommended for award at the City Council meeting on May 9th.

Construction is planned to begin June 2011.

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Need Help Budgeting Your Utility Bill?

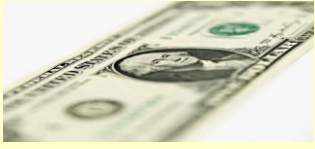
Join our Equal Pay Plan - Also known as Budget Plan.

Here's how it works...

We compute the amount of your utilities used the previous 12 months (you must have lived at the residence one year). The total of your previous year's utilities along with your account balance at the time of your May statement are divided into 12 equal payments. (Note: If your account balance at the time of your May statement is more than \$50.00 you may not qualify for the Equal Pay Plan.) Your first payment will be on your May statement. Each May your budget payment amount will be recalculated. Adjustments may be made within the budget year (May-April) should the budget amount no cover increased usage. The budget amount is required to be paid each month. Non-payment of a budget amount may cause you to lose the privilege of participating. Your final billing for the budget year will be issued in April and will need to be paid in full unless it is a CREDIT.

IMPORTANT! If you were on last year's EQUAL PAY PLAN, you will be put on next year's plan automatically, if your account balance at the time of your May statement is less than \$50.00. Should you NOT wish to continue on the plan please note below.

Want a consistent utility payment amount?



How do I join?
Complete the form below and return it on or before April 22nd.



Please include me in the Equal Pay Plan

I do not wish to continue with the Equal Pay Plan

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS SIGNED FORM WITH YOUR NEXT PAYMENT

SIGNED: _____

Date: _____

Questions can be directed to our Finance Department at 541-938-5531

IMPORTANT!

Has your contact information changed? Phone number? Mailing address? etc? If so, please be sure to let us know in case of an unexpected service interruption or if we find that your water or energy usage is higher than usual so we can have current information to 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!

EVENTS

Spring Clean Up – 4/14-4/16
City Refuse Paying Customers ONLY!

Hours: Thur & Fri 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. & Sat 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Visit us online at www.mfcity.com or call us at 541-938-8270, 8272, 8274 or 8276 for more information.

Pool – Open 5/28, 5/29 & 5/30 & 6/4 – 8/21

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Memorial Day

City Offices WILL BE CLOSED

Observed: Monday 5/30

Refuse & Recycling Service: Tuesday 5/31

ATTENTION!

City Light & Power Customers – Effective October 1, 2011 BPA will change the energy conservation funding levels. All programs (residential, commercial, industrial & agricultural) will still be available, but at different incentive levels. Take advantage of current rebates! All energy conservation rebate projects **MUST BE COMPLETED** by August 15, 2011. For more information call Pat Didion at 938-8237.

LOWER YOUR POWER BILL!



Become involved with the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project.

The City of Milton-Freewater is going to improve and expand our very successful load management program which has been in operation since 1985. Our goal is to reduce our peak demand and to control our energy use during other high demand/high cost times of the month. The benefit to the region is to establishing a more efficient and effective electricity infrastructure that is expected to help contain costs, reduce emissions, incorporate more renewable energy, increase power grid reliability and provide greater flexibility for consumers. In this new and improved program we will connect to more homes in the community and offer other improvements in operations and communication.

You are offered a discount on the The City of Milton-Freewater would like to invite you to participate in our Demand Response Program. **There is no cost to you to participate.** All existing participants in the Radio Energy Management System (REMS) will be changed over automatically to the new Demand Response Program.

Under this program, the City will install a Demand Response Unit (DRU) in your home. Demand Response will be used to reduce peak demand when the City's power needs are the highest. Services in your home such as water heaters, electric furnaces, heat pumps or air conditioning are controlled and cycled on and off during the City's peak use times. Your comfort in your home will always be a prime consideration in the operation of the project.

You are offered a discount on the electric portion of your utility bill for each item that we connect to the relay. We offer a 2 ½ % discount for an electric furnace or heat pump, 2 ½ % for an electric water heater, and a 1% discount for air conditioning. You will receive the discount year round, even when the item connected is not in use. The City will pay for all installation costs.

Through this program, the City is lowering our own monthly power bill to the Bonneville Power Administration. By controlling our expenses in this manner, rate increases in the future can be lower or possibly avoided.

If you would like to volunteer for this program, please contact the City of Milton-Freewater Electric Department at 938-8237, or fill out the attached form and return it to us at City of Milton-Freewater, Attn: Electric Department, P.O. Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Do you rent your home? _____ Own your home? _____

Landlord's name if rental: _____

Landlord's address: _____

Landlord's Signature/Permission: _____

I would like to receive the discount on my:

Elec Water Heater ___ Central Elec Heat ___ Central Air Cond ___

**Wall Heaters, Baseboard Heaters or Window/Wall Mount Air Conditioners cannot be connected to the Demand Response System and do not qualify for the program.



Ambulance Service Update

From City Manager Linda Hall

In early February of this year, our current ambulance service provider, Milton-Freewater Emergency Medical Services, submitted notice to the County Commissioners that they intended to quit providing ambulance service in our area effective May 1st, 2011. The reason given for the intent to quit is an economic hardship.

According to State Law, the County is charged with the duty of "oversight governance" of ambulance services throughout the county.

I am told that our Ambulance Service Area (or ASA #4) is roughly the boundaries of the Unified School District. This includes the city limits as well as a great deal of outside city properties. Our ASA is unique in that it is the only area that is not receiving any form of public tax subsidy. The City of Milton-Freewater has provided free emergency dispatching services to help support the ambulance service for over 20 years.

Even with this support from the City of Milton-Freewater, according to representatives of the ambulance service provider, the service is failing to break even financially.

The County Commissioners referred the situation to an Ambulance Service Advisory Committee. This committee met on March 8th and made a motion to recommend to the County Commissioners that a Special Tax Service District be formed in order to help subsidize the ambulance service in our area. If the County Commissioners agree to sponsor this action it must be placed on the ballot. Therefore, the formation of this district, a Board of Directors to govern it, and its tax levy amount will be ultimately up to the voters.

The City of Milton-Freewater Council and staff will be closely monitoring the issue, and assisting wherever necessary to do all that we are capable of to see that ambulance service continues uninterrupted for our citizens.



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

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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 938.8243
Library 938.8247
Municipal Court 938.8203
Planning & Zoning 938.8234 or 938.8235
Police Business 938.5511
Public Works 938.8270 or 938.8272

Visit us online at www.mfcity.com

April 2011

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8th
Monday, April 11th
Monday, April 25th

Planning Commission 7 p.m.
Monday, April 4th

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5th

Library Board, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, April 26th

Budget Committee 7 p.m.
Thursday, April 28th

May 2011

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8th
Monday, May 9th

Planning Commission 7 p.m.
Monday, May 2nd

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.
Tuesday, May 3rd

Library Board, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, May 31st

June 2011

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8th
Monday, June 13th
Monday, June 27th

Planning Commission 7 p.m.
Monday, June 6th

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.
Tuesday, June 7th

Library Board, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, June 27th

Budget Committee 7 p.m.
Adoption – Monday, June 27th

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall 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.

NEXT ISSUE: July 1st

Milton-Freewater City News – PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 • Publisher/Editor: Krista Sheridan • City Manager: Linda Hall