

OUR TOWN



City Administrator's Message

The new year is upon us, we are all likely reflecting upon what we did in 2013, and pondering about what we'd like to accomplish this year. This month the City Council will be discussing their goals, and what they would like to see accomplished in the City this next year. Two items the Council has been passionate about in recent years is the H.A.R.T. Family Resource Center and fiscal responsibility. These two items are again in the spotlight this year.

HART, a part of the City organization, has been serving Harrisburg families for almost 16 years. Its mission is *to be a core community connector in Harrisburg that is dedicated to actively reaching and providing opportunities for all individuals, families and groups to improve their lives. HART offers services, resources and activities that help create a vital, vibrant, and active community.* Services offered through HART include, a cooperative preschool, parenting workshops, volunteer trainings, youth summer camps, ESL classes, and much more. HART is a valued asset to Harrisburg, and without it many of the services it provides would not be locally accessible to our citizens.

HART was originally funded by several State and County grants. As these revenue sources have gone away, the City has increased its financial support to HART. Today, difficult budgetary decisions have to be made as to whether the City can continue to fund HART without additional revenue. The City Council has been discussing this topic at its recent meetings, and is considering placing a measure on the May 2014, ballot to ask the Harrisburg voters to pass an operations levy to financially support the HART Family Resource Center. As your City Administrator, I encourage you to get to know the issues around this decision, some of which are included in this newsletter. Also, visit the HART Family Resource Center and see if their services can help you, your neighbor or friend.

Brian Latta

H.A.R.T. Family Resource Center

354 Smith Street, in Harrisburg

Hours: 10:00 - 5:30, Monday-Thursday

10:00 - 2:00, 1st & 3rd Friday



Services:

- Co-op Preschool
- Computer Use
- WIC
- ESL and Spanish Services
- Youth Programs
- Parenting Class

City Ordinance Reminders!

When visiting one of our City Parks, please remember these few City ordinances:

- Dogs must be kept on a leash when in the park
- If your dog does its business, please pick it up
- If you create trash, please take it with you or place it in a refuse container
- Driving on the gravel bar is only allowed to load and unload boats into the river
- There is no overnight sleeping, or camping allowed in Parks.



What your friends and neighbors have said about HART

"The H.A.R.T. Center not only filled our need for preschool but also gave me a sense of belonging to a community. Over the years my children and I have been able to benefit from the H.A.R.T. Center not only through the preschool program that all 3 of my children attended but also the summer camps, dental van, the parenting classes that I was able to attend." - Cindy Suttles



"It has been a pleasure for me to help with the center by teaching the Passport class, where we have seen anywhere from 3-8 boys each of the past 8+ years go through the program. I think it is a tribute to the program when boys want to come back and take it again the next year. I also know of several of these boys who over the years have been directly influenced by the Passport class provided by the H.A.R.T. Center, and their lives were turned around because they learned to make better decisions for themselves.

From preschool programs to summer youth activities to adult workshops, the H.A.R.T. Center's very versatile programs benefit an abundance of our community members, and without their services, and the love and care of its current director, we would find a huge gap in services to our community." - Kurt Lang

"They (H.A.R.T.) provide(s) great resources to everyone and are willing to help you find out whatever information you are seeking. Great place to be involved in." - Harrisburg Resident

"The center is a huge resource in our small community. Harrisburg is out of the way for the most part and having a place to go in our town instead of traveling into Albany is a great asset. Many could not do without it." - Anonymous



What is a Local Option Levy?

A local option levy is a voter-approved tax. The City Council is considering placing a local option levy measure on the May 2014, ballot. The levy would fund the HART Family Resource Center services. Local option levies are limited to no more than five years, and the Council has not yet decided how many years to pursue. The City Council will decide whether or not to place the levy on the May 2014, ballot at its January 8th meeting. For more information, please contact Brian Latta, City Administrator at 541-995-6655, or by e-mail at:

blatta@ci.harrisburg.or.us.

Reminder

The Winter billing rates for sewer are now in effect.

Starting in November and continuing through April residential customers shall be billed for sewer based upon the amount of water used during the month. The sewer user fee per equivalent user unit (EUU) is \$6.76.

For example:

During November, 7 units of water was used. Sewer charges for that month would be \$47.32 (7 units X \$6.76). During December, 5 units of water was used. Sewer charges for that month would be \$33.80 (5 units X \$6.76).

New Summer sewer averages will go into effect May 2014.