

# Our Town

## IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES

- ◇ February 11; 6:30pm City Council Business Meeting & HRA Meeting
- ◇ February 12; 2:00pm Municipal Court
- ◇ February 14; 2025 Valentines Day—Take your sweetie out to dinner at a Harrisburg restaurant!
- ◇ February 17; 2025 City Facilities are Closed in honor of President's Day
- ◇ February 18; 7:00pm Planning Commission
- ◇ February 25; 6:30pm City Council Work Session

## City Administrator's Message

It's February; that means we should soon experience the normal winter weather mix, and suffer through the long end of a dreary season. It helps that we gain two minutes of light every day! Help recharge yourself; this February 14, take your sweetie, or if you don't have one, how about your favorite senior citizen, or a neighbor, out to eat at a Harrisburg restaurant, or make them something sweet! If you are buying gifts for someone, please think about purchasing them from a Harrisburg business. Let's keep our local businesses going strong!

**City Day at the Capitol:** I just spent a day in Salem at our Capitol building with Councilor Kim Downey, during City Day at the Capitol. This is an event put together by the League of Oregon Cities, that gives us the opportunity to visit with our legislators. The City of Harrisburg is one of the founders of the Small Municipality Advocacy Coalition, otherwise known as SMAC. We met with 5 different legislative leaders, including our own Representative Jami Cate, and Senator Cedric Hayden. (Our meetings included the Co-Chair of the Ways & Means Committee, the House Majority Leader, and the Speaker of the House.) We submitted a capitol request for \$2,345,000 million for the completion of the water bond project to both Senator Hayden and Representative Cate. We hope that there might be room in the budget this year for our request as we've submitted it the last two years in a row, and both of them know how important it is to our citizens. Obtaining the money from the State of Oregon would be better than obtaining a loan; please keep your fingers crossed! If it comes up during the Ways & Means Committee meetings, and there is testimony allowed, then a Council Member and myself will testify in person on behalf of the City of Harrisburg. We will also ask our citizens to submit emails or letters in support of our request. Watch for notification on Facebook and the weekly email distribution list sometime over the next few months!

**Water Bond Project Information:** On South 2nd Street, behind the old concrete water tank, and the 1/2 million gallon steel tank, you'll find that the foundation has been started for the new steel tank planned at this location. I watched an absolutely huge backhoe there a couple of weekends ago, as it was working. The work was done after the normal day, as the backhoe had to sit in the middle of the turn lane, and then reach over an 8' fence to excavate. The construction will continue to take most of this year. The steel tanks will be required to sit and cure for a period of time, after construction. We expect the final work to be completed around fall in 2026.

**Eagle Park Dog Park:** Did you know that our park is almost an acre, and is big enough that we have both a little dog, and a big dog side? Want to sponsor something in the dog park? Trees, benches, and landscaping all cost a lot of money. Contact Michele at City Hall if you are interested! Also, keep your eyes open for the contractors who are working on the cultural survey in Eagle Park. Because the latest grant includes federal money, the City is required to have a survey done in order to protect any resources that might be present from the Kalapuya Peoples who were present in the Willamette River valley before the pioneers reached Harrisburg. We will also be honoring our pioneers, and, of course, the Morse Bros, who owned the property for many years!

**City Facilities Ad-Hoc Committee:** Starting in March 2025, we will begin exploring some options available to us in relation to City Facilities. The buildings housing the Senior Center & the HART Community Center are more than 60 years old; it's hard to keep putting more of your tax dollars into them, knowing that siding, flooring and wiring is likely next on the list for replacement. Should we keep them, or replace them? What's a cost effective way to do that? In addition, the City owns property, and has funds in the Harrisburg Redevelopment Agency that can pay for a conceptual design for a future Harrisburg Community Center, that will house the Library as well as new Council Chambers. More importantly, we hope to be able to inject a much needed place for people to celebrate after a wedding at the Gazebo. Please contact me at 541-995-2200 or at meldridge@ci.harrisburg.or.us if you'd like to help us with planning these!

**February is a great month to plant a tree!** Trees are welcoming to people, and improve the value on your property. A deciduous tree put in the right place helps to shade your house, and cool it during the hot summer. An evergreen tree can help to block wind and helps shelter your home.

Have a great February ahead! Michele -



## Harrisburg Public Library News

*Drop by your Library to see what's New!*

**Crafting Club:** Every Thursday @ 5pm at the Harrisburg Municipal Center. Open to everyone for any craft!

**Lego Club:** Every Friday from 3pm—4pm — held in the Library. All ages welcome!

**Tiny Tots Story Time:** Every Wednesday at 11am in the Harrisburg Municipal Center.

**Story Time for Children:** Every Friday from 10am to 11am in the Harrisburg Municipal Center.

**Digital Library Consortium:** A Harrisburg Library Card gets you entrance to the Library2go system. You can download your favorite e-books, and audio books through the Libby App! Call 541-995-6949 for more information.

Would you like to help make decisions in how your tax dollars are spent? How about what kind of Library Programs we provide to the public? The Budget Committee and Library Board both has an opening. See the City website for how to apply, and terms of office.

**Are you in the Know? Get News about OUR town!** The City Administrator sends a weekly newsletter to a distribution list. If you aren't on it already, please email meldridge@ci.harrisburg.or.us, or drop by City Hall with your email to get added.

## Code Enforcement Reminders

Greetings Harrisburg! Now that the holiday season has passed, it's time to start thinking about vegetation management. I know that it's cold outside, but this is the perfect time to plan for defensible space/fire safety while the vegetation is dormant! By getting a head start on getting those troublesome bushes, vines, and low-hanging trees trimmed up, you're helping protect your home and helping protect your neighbors as well. When the hot, dry weather arrives, you'll be glad that you got a head start! Trim your problem vegetation while it's dormant and help reduce fire danger.

If you have received a note/door hanger from Code Enforcement or have any questions, please call City Hall at 541-995-6655.

## Residential Utility Rates (Fiscal Year 2024-25)

The utility bill is a combination of water, sewer and storm drain charges. Please contact City Hall for more information. Rates below are for July 2024-June 2025.

Water Base Rate: \$22.82	Sewer: Minimum Charge: \$22.91
Per Unit: \$1.86 (per EUU*)	Sewer User Fee: \$8.31 (per EUU*)
Storm Drain: \$3.85	*An EUU is equal to 748 gals of metered water

## Xpress Bill Pay—Utility Billing

Xpress Bill Pay is our online payment provider. You can pay your utility bill by e-check, Visa, Mastercard, Discover or Debit at no extra cost to you. Visit [www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/utilitybilling](http://www.ci.harrisburg.or.us/utilitybilling) for additional information.

To better serve you, please return any contact changes to City Hall

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_