

Our Town

IMPORTANT MARCH DATES

- ◇ March 5; 5:30pm Library Board Meeting
- ◇ March 10-14 Flushing Water Lines
- ◇ March 11; 6:30pm City Council Business Meeting
- ◇ March 12; 2:00pm Municipal Court
- ◇ March 13; 6:30pm Personnel Committee Meeting
- ◇ March 18; 7:00pm Planning Commission
- ◇ March 25; 6:00pm City Council & Planning Commission Work Session,
7:30pm City Council Work Session

**City Administrator's Message**

The long session is in full swing in Salem, with our legislators, Rep. Jami Cate, and Sen. Cedric Hayden working on behalf of the City along with the other cities in their respective districts. Harrisburg is one of the founding cities behind the Small Municipalities Advocacy Coalition. (SMAC). The purpose of creating this group, which includes Brownsville, Scio, Harrisburg, Halsey, Sodaville, Monroe, Stayton, and Stanton, is to work with small cities who have similar values to us. Joining together helps focus attention to the needs of small cities; which are quite different from metro areas nearby. Over the last few weeks we've been working on two pieces of new legislation. HB 3654 will establish a grant matching tier system, based on population. Most of the grants for infrastructure and capital projects require a 20% match. For example, a \$250,000 grant for a new playground and outdoor fitness center at Eagle Park costs \$50,000 as a grant match. We'd like to ask for more, but can't afford more in the next fiscal year budget. If the House Bill passes, that amount would only be 5%, saving us \$37,500. That would mean a world of difference to a City like us, by allowing your tax dollars to go further. The other legislation, HB 3655, is seeking to change the way that sewer lagoon operators are required to be tested. Both of these house bills would help save money expended by small cities. If you'd like to help support our efforts, please email me, or go on-line to the State of Oregon OLIS system. <https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB3654>.

Water Bond Project Information: Have you been watching the construction at the north water project site on Peoria Rd? The temporary sides of the water tank are going up! This \$1.5M gallon tank will almost be as big as the concrete tank at the south water plant location. It's great to see some progress above ground!



Eagle Park Dog Park: What kind of playground or outdoor fitness equipment, would you like to see in Eagle Park? Both of these will be located just to the west of the existing dog park. We are applying for a large local government grant, for \$250,000. 1. Please let us know what kind of equipment you'd most like to see in place, and 2. Please send a letter or email, with your name to me at meldridge@ci.harrisburg.or.us, so that we can include it with our request! Please send your support email/letter by March 27, to meet the deadlines for the grant.

Harrisburg Community/Red Cross Blood Drive—Friday, March 7, 2025, 11:30am to 5:00pm, at Harrisburg Christian Church, 601 Smith St. See Facebook for the QR to contact Red Cross to schedule an appointment, or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: harrisburgchristian to schedule an appointment.

The Gallery, Saturday, March 8, 2025 11:00-4:00 @ 294 Smith St., featured artists are Demetra Kalams and Wyland (20% of remaining Wyland Art). Also featured: Robert Canaga, Julie Williams, Unjin Jenkins, Rob Rubottom, Sandy Giles, Shelley Roenspie, Rick Simpson, Destiny Brock, Jacey Hamblin, & Veronica Jenkins. Refreshments offered, for more info: 541-543-5920.

City Facilities Ad-Hoc Committee: Starting soon, 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 \$\$\$ 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!

Happy March ~ Michele

Harrisburg Public Library News

Drop by your Library to see what's New!

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

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

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

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

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 have one vacancy. 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.

It's Water Flushing Time Again!

Public Works will be flushing the City water lines the week of **March 10th-14th**. Please contact City Hall with any questions.

Code Enforcement Reminders

Hello Harrisburg! Hopefully, we escaped the worst part of the season with our very brief ice and snow "event". Now that it looks like things are starting to warm up a little, this is the perfect time to start working on your "curb appeal". Dormant vegetation can be easier to control because it's not actively growing... yet! Trimming back now will make your property look amazing and get it ready for the warmer weather. Being proactive about your vegetation now can help create defensible space and reduce fire danger as well as being far less attractive to rodents and other invasive creatures. Your curb appeal can also be helped by properly storing or removing inoperable vehicles from the street. Properly storing and removing inoperable vehicles also prevents them from being towed, incurring towing fees, fines, and citations. 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 for additional information.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Account Number: _____