

# Hermiston 2040 asks residents to envision city's future

HERMISTON HERALD

The city of Hermiston is asking residents to think big as they imagine what the city might look like 20 years from now.

The city, led by a steering committee representing various community partners, has launched Hermiston 2040, an effort to create a 20-year vision plan for the community.

"We're looking to those of you who live, work and play here to help us create the guiding vision for Hermiston's future," the flyer announcing the project reads. "This road map, anchored in the people of Hermiston's values, will chart the way our city will look, feel and work over the next 20 years."

To launch the project, the city created a new website, at [hermiston2040.com](http://hermiston2040.com). The website encourages people to sign up to get involved throughout the feedback-gathering process.

It also contains a link to the city's first Hermiston 2040 survey. The survey asks people connected to Hermiston a series of questions about how they perceive Hermiston and what they would like to see change.

City Manager Byron Smith said the initial survey is designed to help the steering committee find overall themes and trends, before drilling down on those specific topics with more surveys and focus groups with residents. They also plan to do other types of outreach, including booths at community events and open houses, as COVID-19 conditions permit.

"I think people are sometimes skeptical, but this is a sincere effort to find out what the community wants us to work on," Smith said.

He said the final document, which will likely be produced sometime this fall after a summer of gathering feedback, will be available to the entire community so that other organizations can use the information provided.

Smith said the city has done similar 20-year visioning efforts before and it has been helpful in guiding community leaders. Past feedback about the need for more parks and recreation offerings prompted the city to improve parks and add trails, for example.

For more information about the effort, visit [www.hermiston2040.com](http://www.hermiston2040.com) or email [info@hermiston2040.com](mailto:info@hermiston2040.com).



Moda Health/Contributed Photo

Arrow Dental is now taking patients in Hermiston.

## Dental:

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specializing in pediatric dentistry.

They opened the Hermiston office in April and are currently taking patients. Hansen said 98% of Arrow Dental's patients statewide are on Medicaid.

"We do take private insurance, but it's usually family members of patients," he said.

In 2018, Oregon Health Authority's statewide health assessment found only 0.42 dentists per 1,000 people in Oregon, with rural areas even further underserved. It also found that 58% of third graders in Oregon have already experienced tooth decay, and that 45% of children ages 1-5 on Medicaid had not received any preventative dental care.

Dr. Teri Barichello, chief dental officer at Moda, said

it is important for people to understand what a "critical role" that oral health plays in peoples' overall health. It can have an effect on everything from cardiac health to diabetes.

"In children we don't worry as much about gum disease, but their enamel is much thinner," she said. "Once a cavity gets started it can progress much quicker."

Children experiencing tooth pain have trouble concentrating in school, she said, and sometimes resort to acting out with bad behavior. Barichello said all children should visit a dentist by their first birthday or once their first tooth erupts to get an early start on prevention.

Opening Arrow Dental in Hermiston should make that easier for Eastern Oregon residents.

Arrow Dental shares a building with Affordable Family Eyewear at 298 E. Gladys Ave. in Hermiston.

## BRIEFS

### Stanfield seeks teen applicants for part-time work

Teenagers looking for a job are encouraged to apply with the Stanfield Public Library and Stanfield Parks & Recreation for Summer Activities for Youth.

Both entities are looking for motivated teens that are interested in joining their teams. The part-time positions are for the summer season.

Teens working at the library will help with planning, organizing and setting up a variety of youth activities. They also will serve as a mentor to youths in the community. The starting wage is \$12 per hour. Applications must be turned in by Thursday, June 3.

The parks & recreation assistant position is a part-time/on-call job that includes planning, setting up and running events in the community. Those who apply must be willing to work nights and weekends.

Applications must be submitted by Friday, May 28.

Applications for both positions are available at the Stanfield Public Library, 180 W. Coe Ave. For questions, call Cecili Longhorn at 541-449-1254.

### Irrigon church gears up for highway cleanup

People are invited in a clean-up project sponsored by the Family Worship Center in Irrigon.

The congregation reaches out to help the community during fall and spring Adopt-A-Highway cleanup efforts. The upcoming project is Saturday, May 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. People who would like to help should be 16 or older.

For more information, call 541-922-3054, visit [www.irrigonfwc.org/our-ministries](http://www.irrigonfwc.org/our-ministries) or search Facebook for "Family Worship Center."

Hermiston Herald



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