Members of Committees and Boards

**STAFF REPORT**

For the Meeting of October 26, 2026

## Title/Subject

Recognition of Willard and Judy Fordice and Renaming of the Harkenrider Activity Center Board Room

## Summary and Background

Willard and Judy Fordice have been part of the Hermiston community for more than six decades. They were married in 1960 and settled in Hermiston in 1964 following Willard's service in the United States Army, which included 13 months in Korea.

In 1994, Willard and Judy began serving the Hermiston Senior Center. Over the following 32 years, they became central to the leadership, operation, and identity of the organization. They regularly volunteered five days each week, supporting the Senior Board, programs, activities, meals, facility operations, finances, and the daily needs of local seniors. Their service was performed entirely on a volunteer basis.

Willard served for many years as president of the Hermiston Senior Center Board. In addition to his board leadership, he drove the Senior Bus, delivered meals, and transported seniors to activities and events.

Judy also served in leadership roles with the Senior Board and fulfilled many of the responsibilities associated with overseeing the daily operation of the Senior Center. Together, Willard and Judy were actively involved in nearly every aspect of the Senior Board and Senior Center operations.

Much of their volunteer service was performed as a team. Their individual strengths complemented one another, and their shared commitment provided the Senior Center with consistency, stability, and personal care for more than three decades.

In 2018, Willard and Judy played an important role in transitioning senior programs into the Harkenrider Activity Center. Their leadership, knowledge, and longstanding relationships helped seniors adjust to the new facility while preserving the friendships, programs, and sense of belonging that had developed over many years.

### Honoring Their Service

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee has unanimously recommended renaming the Board Room at the Harkenrider Activity Center as the **Fordice Meeting Hall**. The proposed name recognizes Willard and Judy's extraordinary volunteer service, their leadership of the

Hermiston Senior Center Board, their assistance with the transition into the Harkenrider Activity Center, and their lasting impact on Hermiston's senior community.

Naming the room in their honor will provide a permanent reminder of their legacy and the difference that dedicated volunteer service can make within a community.

## Tie-In to Council Goals

Focus Area - Wellness: A Healthy Community

## Fiscal Information

Minor costs associated with permanent room signage and a commemorative plaque will be covered through the Parks and Recreation Department's existing budget.

## Alternatives and Recommendation

Alternatives

The City Council may approve the proposed name, select a different name, send the naming recommendation back to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee or decline to rename the room.

Recommended Action/Motion:

Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that the City Council approve renaming the Board Room at the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center as the Fordice Meeting Hall.

## Submitted By:

Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation Director