

COLUMBIA CITY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2011



COLUMBIA CITY
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HEALTHY KIDS

What is Healthy Kids? Healthy Kids is a new program that provides free low-cost health care coverage for Oregon kids and teens who don't have health insurance. Even kids with current health conditions can enroll.

Coverage lasts for at least one full year and can be extended so long as the child is still eligible.

If you thought you would not qualify—or in the past you did not qualify—please fill out an application. The application is now easier to complete, and there are many Healthy Kids representatives around the state waiting to help you with the application process.

Who qualifies? Three key things determine if your child qualifies for no-cost or low-cost coverage: age, residency and income.

- Child must be age 18 or younger—your baby, grade-school student or teen.
- Child must live in Oregon and be a legal resident.
- Annual household income can't be more than 300 percent of the federal poverty level, which is about \$66,000 for a family of four. Income level depends on family size, so for smaller families, the limit is lower. For larger families, the limit is higher.

For more information contact Patricia Ortiz, Columbia County Outreach Coordinator for the Healthy Kids Program, at Patricia@osbhcn.org or Ederlinda Ortiz-Clawson, Application Assister for the Columbia County Healthy Kids Program, at Ederlinda@osbhcn.org or (503)-366-7696.



SPRING CLEANUP

Spring cleaning is just around the corner! Now is the time to get rid of that unwanted junk - old appliances, scrap metal, yard debris, old furniture, solidified latex paint cans, unwanted items, etc. The annual Spring Cleanup Day will be held on **Saturday, April 30th, 2011, from 8 a.m. to noon** at the Columbia City School. You can drop off your yard debris, trees and limbs for FREE! Extra bulky waste or hard-to-dispose-of items, such as old furniture, lawn mowers, mattresses, etc. will be accepted for a fee. The following minimum charges apply to other items:

- Yard debris, trees and limbs - FREE**
- Car load of junk - \$5.00**
- Pick-up load of junk - \$10.00**
- Trailer load of junk - \$15.00**
- Refrigerators/freezers/air conditioners - \$10.00**
- Other appliances - \$5.00**
- Car batteries - \$2.00**
- Car or Pick-up Tires - \$2.00**

*NO tires on rims
NO commercial truck tires
NO commercial truck loads
NO wet garbage
NO burn piles
NO painted wood
NO lumber
NO construction debris
NO sod*

This is a community event sponsored by:

- Beaver Bark
- City of Columbia City
- Columbia County Community Corrections
- Columbia County Land Development
- Columbia County Transfer Station
- Hudson Garbage Service
- Hudson Portable Toilet Service
- Les Schwab Tire Center
- St. Helens School District
- South Columbia County Chamber
- Stan's Refrigeration
- Waste Management

PROPOSED LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES

Why is the new levy needed? Police protection service costs have exceeded the permanent tax rate revenues for the last six years, and the funding gap continues to grow. The City's permanent tax rate is among the lowest of all of the cities in the state, as shown in the chart on the bottom of this page. Passage of this levy will secure police protection services at current levels for the next five years.

How long will this levy last? Five years.

How will the taxes from the levy be used? For police protection services. These taxes will sustain current-level police protection services that include:

- Seven day a week coverage with "on-call" protocol;
- Extended premise check services, foot patrols, area patrols, and other proactive community programs;
- Proactive criminal patrol and follow-up investigations;
- Back-up and assistance to adjoining local law enforcement agencies;

What will happen if the levy fails? Department service levels will be reduced. Service level

reductions could involve a combination of cuts such as:

- Reducing current staffing levels of Department personnel by as much as 40 hours per month or more;
- Reducing Department service levels by moving to a reactive approach and dispatched calls for service;
- Programs such as premise checks, foot patrols, area patrols and community policing may be eliminated or incur a service fee;
- Physical criminal patrols and follow-up investigative activities could be reduced.

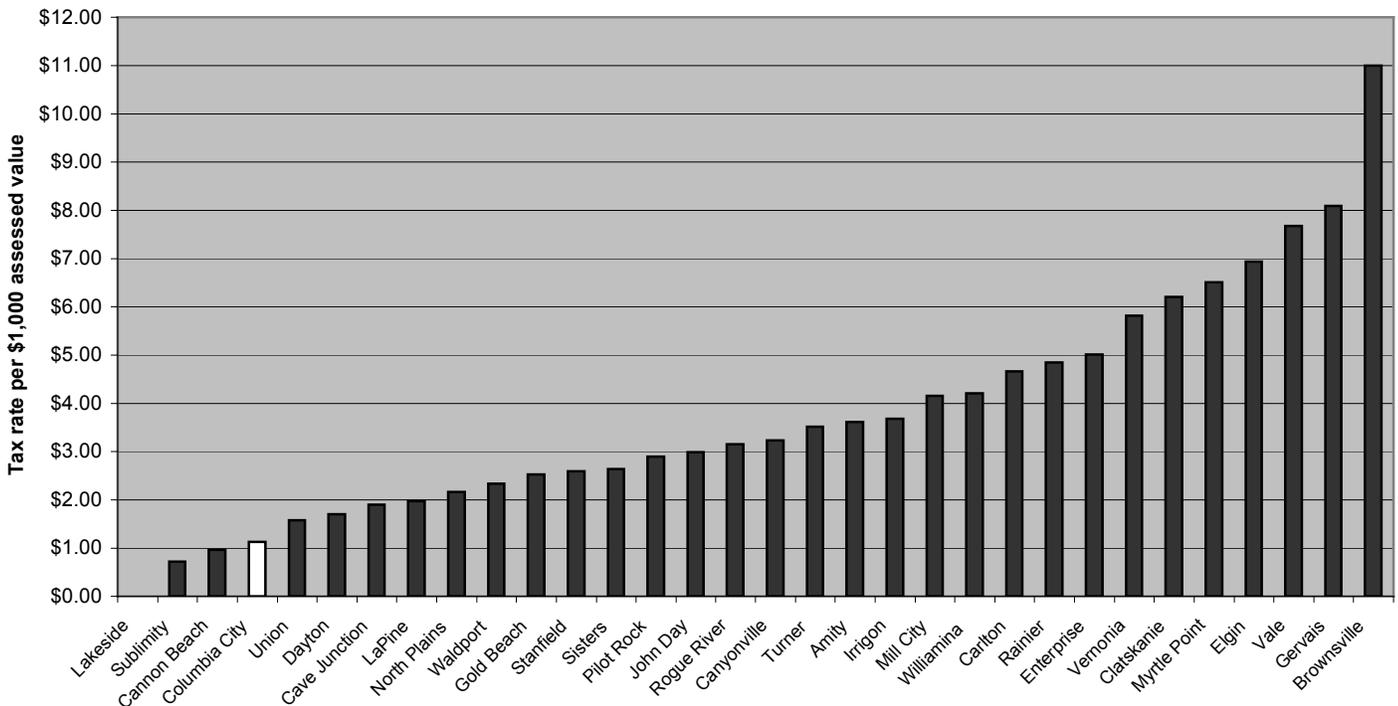
What will the levy cost? The levy will cost \$0.67 per \$1,000 assessed value. A home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$134.00 per year.

How much do I pay now? The City levies a permanent tax rate of \$1.13 per \$1,000 of assessed value, plus a sewer bond levy. The sewer bond levy rate varies each year, but will drop to about \$0.26 in its final year.

How long will the sewer bond levy continue? One more year.

When will I vote on the levy? The levy will appear on the ballots for the May 17, 2011 Primary Election.

**Comparison of Permanent Tax Rates
Oregon Cities with Populations of 1,500 to 2,500**



**POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT
February - March 2011**

See below for the department's activity during the most recent reporting period. Please feel free to contact me, or any of your police officers, with feedback or further questions that you may have.



Stay safe ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

Your police officers answered 503 calls for service during the past reporting period. Although many of these calls were self-initiated by officers of this department, we have summarized below both significant community policing and criminal investigations that we have conducted.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITY:

- Residential security checks: 97
- Area Patrols: 47
- Foot Patrols: 8
- Assist the Public: 6
- Hazards: 1
- Radio Calls: 291
- Animal Complaints: 3
- Nuisance/Code Enforcement Complaints: 3
- Abandoned 911 calls: 1
- Assistance to Outside Agencies: 19
- Disabled Vehicles: 3
- Noise Complaints: 1
- Welfare Checks: 1

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY:

- Harassment Investigations: 1
- Theft Investigations: 1
- Hit and Run Investigations: 2
- Investigative Follow Up's: 9
- Suspicious Circumstances, People, Vehicles and Prowler Calls: 4
- Traffic Stops: 65
- Traffic Crashes: 1
- Suicide Threat calls: 1
- Threats Investigations: 2
- Warrant Arrest: 1

CALLS OF INTEREST:

1. Threat investigation in the 3600 block of Park Drive on 02/02/2011 – Investigation remains open.

2. Hit and run investigation in 300 block of "A" Street on 02/04/2011 – Investigation remains open.
3. Threat investigation in the 1900 block of Third Street on 02/04/2011 – Investigation concluded with suspect identified.
4. Suspicious person in the area of Highway 30 near "G" Street on 02/04/2011 – Person involved checked out OK.
5. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 02/06/2011 – Vehicle and persons involved checked out OK with no further police action required.
6. Warrant service in the 1900 block of Third Street on 02/06/2011 – Subject arrested and transported to the Columbia County Jail.
7. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 02/08/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
8. Suspicious vehicle in the 300 block of "A" Street on 02/11/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
9. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Highway 30 near Pacific Street on 02/11/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.
10. Suspicious vehicle in the area of Jim Bundy Park on 02/12/2011 – Vehicle and operator checked out OK.

**"MEET AND GREET" YOUR POLICE
DEPARTMENT STAFF**



An informal public gathering will be held at City Hall on Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 7 to 9 p.m. This "Meet and Greet" session will provide citizens with an opportunity to meet their Police Department staff, as an organization and individually. Staff and elected officials will be available to answer your questions about the local option levy.

💧 WATER CONSERVATION TIP 💧

Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.



**LIBRARY NEWS
FUNDING ALERT!**

Because of the downturn of the local economy, the City of Columbia City can no longer spend the resources for the Columbia City Celebration, and can no longer fund the Columbia City Community Library. The Friends of the Library understand the reason for their decision. Funding the library is not a necessary government function. Consequently, we must raise approximately \$16,000 over the next year.

The City has supported us with the City Celebration for the past eight years and we are very thankful for their help. Now we need to determine if we have enough user and community support to remain open.

We have a great library and want to continue to be open for our community. We are already staffed entirely by volunteers. Currently, the Friends of the Library raises about \$3000 per year from memberships, donations, and book sales. We spend about that same amount on books, supplies, utilities, and programs. The city has been paying the \$1000 per month rent for the library, plus some additional expenses that Friends of the Library will have to take over.

Those of us who are Friends of the Library and who are volunteering our time want the library to remain open, but we need money to remain open. We don't want to begin charging for people to use the library, but would like to encourage everyone who uses the library to donate money as well as books.

The City of Columbia City will continue funding the library until the end of their fiscal year, June 30. The Friends of the Library currently has enough cash on hand to pay for July and August. We will be looking for ways to raise funds so that we can continue past August.

We will hold a forum at the library on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss how the community wants to handle funding the library. We need your input to decide what we should do.

If the library is important to you, please help us by attending the forum, volunteering to help with fundraising, and by donating directly to Friends of the Library (FOL). Contact Cathy Lundberg, FOL President, at (503) 556-1958, Lee Phillips, FOL Vice President, at (503) 366-6468, Traci Wolfe FOL

Treasurer, at (503) 366-1795, or Robert Dillinger, FOL Secretary, at (503) 366-4485.

Novel Quilters

The Novel Quilters have been reading *The Map of True Places* by Brunonia Barry. We will reveal our quilts at our Wednesday, April 20 meeting. Come see some beautiful quilts, and get some insights into *The Map of True Places*. Our next book will also be disclosed.

Staffed Library Hours:

Monday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday, 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Story Time:

11 a.m. every Monday

Community Forum:

Monday, April 11 – 7 p.m.

Friends of the Library Meeting:

Monday, April 11 - 8 p.m.

Novel Quilters Meeting:

Wednesday, April 20 – 6:30 p.m.

Mystery Book Group:

Wednesday, April 27 - 7 p.m.

205 "I" Street, PO Box 189

Columbia City OR 97018

(503) 366-8020

cclibrary@opusnet.com

<http://www.freewebs.com/cccomlibrary/index.htm>

CODE ENFORCEMENT REMINDERS

Citizens should be aware of the following regulations and report violators to the City Hall.

Political signs: Political signs may be displayed no sooner than 45 days prior to an election, and must be removed within 15 days of election. For the May 17 Primary Election, signs may be displayed as early as Saturday, April 2, and must be removed by Wednesday,



June 1.



Keep grass and weeds cut: Between April 15th and September 30th weeds and grass cannot exceed 10 inches in height within the City limits.

PARK MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Parks Committee would like to extend a very special thank you to the number of dedicated volunteers that already assist us with park maintenance activities.

This year, the Parks Department is facing severe cuts in funding support. The Parks Committee is hoping to secure even more volunteer assistance to help care for our parks. The Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the following park maintenance activities:

Columbia City Bike Path: Routine mowing and weeding activities.

Ruth Rose Richardson Park: Routine mowing, weeding, pruning, and seasonal power washing activities.

Pixie Park: Weeding and pruning activities.

Datis Park: Weeding activities.

Jim Bundy Memorial Park: Routine weeding, pruning, and woody debris clean up; seasonal power washing; some mowing activities.

Do you live near one of these park areas? Would you be willing to volunteer to help? If so, please contact City Hall.

And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.

John F. Kennedy

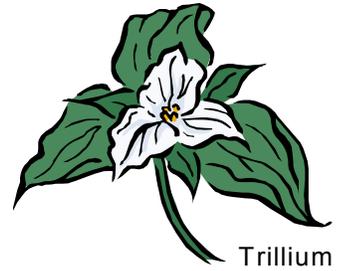
CAPLES HOUSE MUSEUM COMPLEX OPEN

Come visit and support your local museum. The Caples House Museum is now open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m., through the end of October. They would love to give you a tour and share the history of the Caples Family in Columbia City.

After the tour or each Friday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. visit the Caples House for a pot of tea and sweets. Come alone or bring a friend for a relaxing visit and a lovely setting. Cost is \$5 per person with proceeds going to the museum. Caples House Museum is located at 1925 First Street.

A LOCAL SHOWCASE FOR TRILLIUM

From March through June, large-flowered trilliums bloom gracefully on the forest floor throughout Jim Bundy Memorial Park. The trillium has a large, often white, three-petaled flower above three broad leaves.



Trillium

Along with its three sepals, it's easy to see where trillium got its name. The plants are 8 - 18 inches high with a stem bearing a 2 - 4 inch flower. The white flowers turn pink with age. They grow in rich wooded areas, and trillium is often the first wildflower noticed by casual walkers as other spring wildflowers are much less apparent.

Trillium flowers should never be picked. In fact, it is illegal to pick trilliums in Oregon, Washington, New York, Michigan and British Columbia. The three leaves below the flower are the plant's only food source and a picked trillium may die or take many years to recover. Trillium plants take 6 years to grow from seeds to flowers.

Trillium is one of many plants whose seeds are spread by ants and mice. Trillium seeds have a fleshy organ called an elaiosome that attracts ants. The ants take the seeds to their nest, where they eat the elaiosomes and put the seeds in their garbage, where they are protected until they germinate. They also get the added bonus of growing in a medium made richer by the ant garbage.

REMINDER BIANNUAL BURN PERIOD



The biannual burn period will begin on **Saturday, April 2nd, and end on Sunday, April 17th.** The burn period is for yard debris only, burn barrels are prohibited and it must be a burn day. **Call (503) 397-4800 for burn day information before you burn. Burn permits are required prior to burning!** If you obtained a permit in the fall of

2010 you may not need to get a new one - check the expiration date. Permits may be obtained at City Hall or at any Fire Station within the Columbia River Fire & Rescue District.

CHIEF'S CORNER

Crime Prevention Tips

Home and Neighborhood Security

Creating Safe Neighborhoods

Neighborhood Security encompasses a lot of different ideas and strategies. However, the unifying element is the need for neighbors to work both as individuals and as a coordinated team.

If your neighborhood is having chronic problems with nuisances such as noise and speeding, or more serious problems such as drug or criminal activities, you are not powerless to change the situation. The immediate role of the police is to respond to criminal activity, but when a situation is part of a recurring problem, active neighbors help investigations and allow police to take further action.

Your response can, as well as that of your neighbor, make a difference. Often times the partnership between neighbors and police are required to resolve the problem.

What Should You Do?

Use Home Security Methods - There are easy ways to protect your house from becoming an easy target for burglars. Proper lighting, trimming shrubs, strong exterior doors, dead bolts with a minimum of a 1-inch throw, and residential home address numbers clearly visible from the roadway are just a few.

Report Crime - Don't assume that your neighbors have already reported the crime or that the police already know what is going on.

Don't Be Part of the Problem - When you live in a residential neighborhood, your actions are felt by others. By not speeding, maintaining your house and property, and being thoughtful about noise levels - you will set a standard of behavior for others in your neighborhood to follow.

What Can Neighbors Do?

Start A Block Watch - An active Block Watch may be the most important tool you have to reclaim your neighborhood, or to stop problems before they get too serious.

Be A Good Neighbor - Meet your neighbors, keep a watchful eye on the neighborhood and report suspicious activities.

Keep A Log - If your neighborhood is experiencing chronic problems, keeping records of where, when and what kind of activity occurred will help later, especially if there is a criminal prosecution or need to establish a pattern of behavior.

The Police Department would like to request your continued support in being our eyes and ears in the community. Please feel free to contact us with any information that you feel would help us in keeping our community safe. We can be reached via 911, (503) 397-4010 (Office), or (Non-emergency) Columbia 911 at (503) 397-1521.

Thanks ~ Chief Michael S. McGlothlin

HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

The last Saturday of each month from 8 a.m. to noon the Columbia County Transfer Station is open to accept hazardous waste materials. The Transfer Station is located at 1601 Railroad Avenue in St. Helens. The next Hazardous Waste Disposal event will occur on Saturday, April 30, 2011.

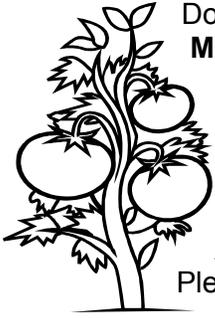
The County's HHW facility **accepts** the following:

- Pool and spa chemicals
- Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and poisons
- Thinners and solvents
- Household cleaners and disinfectants
- Art and hobby chemicals
- Aerosol spray chemicals
- Propane tanks and bottles
- Fluorescent lamps and ballasts
- PCB's
- Medical Sharps
- Gasoline/diesel
- Paint
- Small Arms Ammunition
- Batteries
- Used Oil
- Antifreeze
- Fireworks

Not accepted:

- Ø Radioactive materials
- Ø Household trash
- Ø Explosives
- Ø Bio Medical waste
- Ø Asbestos
- Ø Prescription/Over the Counter medications
- Ø Business Hazardous Waste from Small (SQG) or Large Quantity (LQG) Generators

ANNUAL SPRING GARDEN FAIR



Don't miss the **Columbia County Master Gardener™ Association's** 16th annual fair on April 30th at St. Helens High School, 2375 Gable Road, inside the Commons and outside in the courtyard. The sale starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Please carpool. No pets.

Certified Master Gardeners will offer over 7,100 tomatoes in over 45 varieties for only \$1.25 per plant. Come early for the best selection. We will also have certified members on hand to provide general gardening information at the education table and tomato-specific information at the tomato sale.

Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each and hourly prizes will be awarded. Raffle tickets are on sale now and can be purchased from many Columbia County Master Gardeners and at the OSU Extension Service in St. Helens. You don't need to be present to win.

Dozens of local vendors will offer annuals, trees, perennials, shrubs, trellises, garden art, vegetables, ceramics, herbs, containers, hanging baskets and more.

BBB's SECURE YOUR ID DAY

Gather up unwanted documents and old cell phones, and take advantage of this FREE shredding service. Drive up and drop off up to three (3) grocery bags or boxes of documents to be securely shredded on-the-spot! No cardboard or three-ring binders please.



Used cell phones will be collected by your Better Business Bureau (BBB) and safely recycled courtesy of The Wireless Alliance. To protect your information, all phones will be wiped of stored data prior to recycling. Be your identity's first line of defense.

Saturday, April 16, 2011 - 9 AM to 1 PM

Unitus Community Credit Union
Beaverton Branch

10580 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy
Beaverton, OR 97005

DEA SCHEDULES 2nd NATIONAL TAKE BACK DAY FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control's National Take Back Initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time



according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet.

In an effort to address this problem, DEA, in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, conducted the first ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The purpose of this National Take Back Day was to provide a venue for persons who wanted to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. This effort was a huge success in removing potentially dangerous prescription drugs, particularly controlled substances, from our nation's medicine cabinets. There were approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the nation that participated in the event. All told, the American Public turned in more than 121 tons of pills on this first National Take Back Day.

Due to the overwhelming success of the first event, DEA has scheduled the 2nd National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which will take place on **Saturday, April 30, 2011, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** This is a great opportunity for those who missed the first event or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of them. Further information about the second National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, including a link to locate a collection site near you, will be posted on the DEA website www.dea diversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html.



THANK YOU

We'd like to extend a very special "thank you" to:

- Bernie Albertine, Karin Bates, Marian Calnon, Jean Carulli, Gloria Chinell, Betty Jensen, Gladys Riahi, Phyllis Rowley and Vonnie Walker for helping with the March utility bills and newsletters.
- Marian Calnon working in the flowers beds around City Hall.

RENT THE COMMUNITY HALL FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT!!

The Columbia City Community Hall has new rental policies! Need a place to play basketball or volleyball? How about host a birthday party, wedding reception, baby shower, reunion, rummage sale, or wine and cheese tasting? The Community Hall has a gym floor, basketball hoops, and a net for volleyball. There's also a supply of tables and chairs, as well as a stage. The kitchen is equipped with a stove, oven, microwave, sink and refrigerator. Come check it out and book your next event!

Rental Rates as of April 1, 2011:

\$12.50 per hour

\$125.00 per day

Rentals involving food & beverages: \$30.00 fee

Rentals involving beer, wine or liquor: \$200.00 fee

Contact City Hall in Columbia City for availability and additional information.

BUDGET COMMITTEE VACANCY

Are you interested in serving on the Columbia City Budget Committee? The City currently has a position available. Applicants must reside within the City. The term is for a period of three years. The Committee meets to review the proposed budget, hear public testimony and approve a budget for submission to the City Council. Applications are available at City Hall.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SET

The Columbia City Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 6 PM in the Council Chambers of the City Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to receive comment from the public on the budget.

A copy of the proposed budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after May 2, 2011 at the City Hall. Any person may appear at the meeting and discuss the proposed programs with the Budget Committee.



The Budget Committee will also hold a public hearing to discuss the proposed use of revenue sharing funds during the 2011-12 fiscal year.

MONTHLY MEETING AND EVENT CALENDAR - APRIL 2011

April 2 nd	dawn	First day of open burning
April 7 th	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 11 th	7:00 PM	Library Community Forum at the Library
April 11 th	8:00 PM	Friends of the Library Meeting at the Library
April 12th	7:00 PM	Planning Commission Meeting at City Hall CANCELED
April 14 th	5:00 PM	Hazard Mitigation Group Meeting at City Hall
April 14 th	7:00 PM	Municipal Court at City Hall
April 17 th	dusk	Last day of open burning
April 19 th	5:00 PM	Parks Committee Meeting at City Hall
April 21 st	6:00 PM	Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall
April 28 th	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	"Meet and Greet" your Police Department staff at City Hall
April 30 th	9:00 AM to noon	Spring Clean Up Event at the Grade School